

Industry News

N.H. forest named biosphere reserve

Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire was recently named a "biosphere reserve", according to a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

The newly-named reserve is part of an international network of protected areas representing the world's major natural regions. In addition to conservation, the areas will be used for research monitoring and education. Five other U.S. sites, all in existing national forests or national parks, were also named biosphere reserves under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program.

Hubbard Brook has served as a watershed research site since 1955, said Robert S. Pierce, Forest Service research forester at Durham, NH. Located in the central White Mountains near West Thornton, Hubbard Brook is typical of many watersheds in New England. That, and the fact that its vegetation is representative of northern hardwood forests, make it an ideal site for research.

Plant to make gas for NH₃ production

W. R. Grace & Co., and Ebasco Services Inc., both of N.Y., NY, will negotiate a contract with the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to design a demonstration plant for the gasification of coal for generation of synthesis to produce 1,200 tons per day of ammonia.

The plant will be designed to demonstrate the utilization of a wide range of U.S. coal, including high sulphur eastern coals. All local, state and federal environmental requirements will be incorporated in the plant design.

At the conclusion of the Phase I

design, predefined performance and economic criteria for the facility will be established. These criteria will be the basis for determining whether the proposals will continue to Phase II (construction).

Current plans are to locate the proposed coal-base ammonia plant in Basket, KY, in the vicinity of the Green River, six miles from Henderson, KY.

Fisons expands research area

Fisons Corporation has purchased a 300-acre research farm near Harlingen, TX. The farm will be used for specialized testing and screening of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides produced by Fisons research and development facility in the United Kingdom.

The purchase of the Harlingen research facility is the second major physical expansion for the firm in the past year. The company recently began construction of a pesticide manufacturing plant on a 435-acre site near Muskegon, MI.

Fisons Corporation, headquartered in Bedford, MA, is a subsidiary of Fisons Limited, England, a world-wide manufacturer and marketer of agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment. Fisons Corporation has been conducting agricultural research in the US since 1967.

According to Fisons, the Harlingen location was selected for its year-round growing season, enabling the testing of products on a wide variety of crops.

Diamond Shamrock shows record sales

Diamond Shamrock Corp. achieved record sales, net income

and earnings per share for the fourth quarter and fiscal year 1976. The announcement was made by W. H. Bricker, president and chief executive officer of the diversified chemicals and oil and gas company.

For the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 1976, net income increased 22 percent to \$140.0 million compared with \$114.3 million in 1975.

Earnings per share were \$3.90 based on 34,547,000 average common shares outstanding. This compares with \$3.41 based on 31,344,000 shares outstanding in 1975.

Record sales totaled \$1.36 billion, up 20 percent from 1975.

New insecticide mfg. firm opens

The formation of Fairfield American, a corporation whose insecticide products were formerly made by the agricultural chemical division of FMC Corp. of Middleport, NY, has been announced by Clinton J. Starke, the new firm's president. Starke was formerly manager of industrial sales at FMC.

Johns-Manville forms Ag-Turf dept.

The Johns-Manville Corp. is consolidating its agricultural and turf irrigation sprinkler systems business in Fresno, CA, under the name Ag-Turf department. The announcement was made recently by Chester J. Sulewski, senior vice president, industrial and pipe products group.

According to Sulewski, this consolidation will enable the Ag-Turf department to be more responsive to customer needs and to better serve the irrigation market.