

UPDATE

USDA research centers face cuts

United States Department of Agriculture research centers in Delaware, Ohio; Tifton, Georgia; Corvallis, Oregon; and Mandan, North Dakota may face significant cutbacks in funding according to Robert Lederer, executive vice-president of the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

The rumors of cutbacks have not yet been confirmed, but AAN's Leo Donahue said, "there is good evidence the rumors are true." The Office of Management and Budget will be meeting with AAN staff to go over the USDA line budget. "We will present a laundry list of recommendations for research funding," said Donahue.

Lederer wrote all Congressmen regarding the rumored cutbacks asking for hearings. He told the Congressmen, "Closing the Delaware Laboratory and reducing research at these facilities would eliminate virtually all horticultural research by the Agricultural Research Service. With an increasing percentage of nursery production being from asexual propagation, control techniques for nematodes, mycoplasma and viruses are essential. Virtually all our firms lack the size and resources to conduct research themselves."

Nursery production, unlike other types of agriculture, does not require government subsidies. With sales volume approaching \$5 billion, nursery gets very little support currently from USDA, and the little it does get is very critical, Lederer said.

EPA may study small waste levels

The Environmental Protection Agency has recommended a two-year study on alternatives for regulating small generators of toxic wastes to House and Senate Committees. EPA Associate Administrator Rita Lavelle told the committees in a letter including generators of less than 1,000 kilograms per month in current regulations would add an enforcement load of 130,000 to 690,000 facilities.

If the monthly limit is lowered to 100 kilograms (roughly 228 lbs.) per month, an estimated 130,000 facilities would fall under the same regulations as larger generators. EPA wants a study of the type and quantity of waste generated by smaller industries to weigh risks versus benefits of additional enforcement.

AAN continues immigration fight

AAN and the Society of American Florists continue to lobby against popular changes in immigration control. The changes are inspired by pressure from unemployed Americans who claim immigrants are taking jobs away from them.

AAN and SAF believe the changes, mainly involving identification and hiring procedures, are unworkable and would result in fines to growers which are not deserved as intentional violations.

Congress is likely to handle the Immigration Reform Act quickly so that it can move on to Social Security legislation, according to Leo Donahue at AAN.

ter sugar results this year over last—Amfac lost \$30.5 million in sugar in the third quarter last year. Non-sugar operations continued to be hurt by the depressed national economy, specifically the reduction in new construction and discretionary spending, which affect Amfac's distribution, retail, hotels and resorts, and horticulture businesses.

Nine months' net income was \$15,552,000 or \$1.04 per share, compared with \$36,501,000 or \$2.51 per share for the first nine months of 1981.

Revenues for the first nine months of 1982 were \$1,605,506,000 compared with \$1,609,128,000 in 1981.

IRRIGATION

Rain Bird names new district manager

Steven P. Christie has been appointed district manager for the Southern California sales region of Rain Bird Sales, Inc., Turf Division. Christie will be responsible for implementing turf sales and marketing programs for the region. Prior to his promotion, he served as turf specifications manager for the Southern California region. He joined Rain Bird in 1978 as an irrigation design instructor.

EQUIPMENT

Porter Brothers expands distribution to Yazoo

Porter Brothers, Inc., has been named distributor for Yazoo Manufacturing Company in Virginia and West Virginia.

Porter Brothers has distributed Yazoo mower and tiller products in North and South Carolina for over 10 years. Joe Porter, president of Porter Brothers, said, "We are very pleased to be able to add Yazoo to the other quality products we offer to our dealers in Virginia and West Virginia. We plan to continue to expand our service line in this area as rapidly as possible."

The Shelby, North Carolina-based distributor already handles McCulloch, Flymo, Carlton and Topper products in Virginia, and is the distributor for a number of additional major outdoor power equipment manufacturers in North and South Carolina such as Green Machine, McCulloch, Snapper and Giant Vac.

Porter Brothers was organized in 1949, and is the largest distributor of outdoor power equipment in the U.S.

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