

health risks from the chemical.

Alachlor, a herbicide for use on crops and woody ornamentals, is produced by Monsanto under the trade name Lasso.

The EPA says that benefits from using the chemical, which has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals and possibly in humans, outweigh risks.

New EPA requirements stipulate that only certified workers can apply the chemical, and that the product must remain enclosed during mixing to reduce exposure.

The agency also lifted its ban on aerial spraying of alachlor under the condition that no ground workers remain in the area as "flaggers" to signal cropdusters.

Banning the chemical would have cost farmers between \$500 million and \$760 million in increased weed control costs and declining crop production.

Estimated sales of the chemical for 1986 are \$300 million, or a quarter of Monsanto's agricultural chemical sales.

Concern still exists over the presence of alachlor in public drinking water. The EPA is expected to propose a maximum contaminant level for the

chemical under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The agency estimates that residues from alachlor use could cause cancer in two persons out of a million.

INDUSTRY

Ford reorganizes tractor operations division

With the new year, Ford Motor Company moved to restructure Ford Tractor Operations and New Holland, Inc., into a worldwide unified operation. Coinciding with the restructuring, the company reorganized the tractor operations from a Ford division to a subsidiary, Ford New Holland, Inc., to be run by Robert F. Moglia.

According to the company, the move represents an attempt by Ford to broaden its role in the competitive agriculture and industrial equipment industry.

Three major product components will comprise the new organization: Tractor Operations (FTO), New Holland and Diesel Engine Operations. Tractor Operations produces a variety of agricultural and industrial tractors.

New Holland makes harvesting

and haying machinery, along with industrial equipment. Diesel Operations manufactures engines for New Holland machinery, Ford trucks and a number of other manufacturers.

Tractor and diesel operations will be headquartered in Troy, Mich., in the present FTO facilities, while corporate world headquarters will be consolidated in New Holland, Pa., later this year. The parts depot and branch sales office will remain in Troy.

Sales and marketing of Tractor Operations and New Holland will be based in New Holland.

RESEARCH

Nematodes can determine toxicity of chemicals

Nematodes seem to be developing a Jeckyl and Hyde complex lately. The tiny round critters, best known for their relentless attacks on agricultural crops, have a good side, too, researchers have found.

In addition to their recently discovered appetite for grubs, nematodes may also be useful in determining the toxicity of hazardous chemicals.

A Georgia Tech University research project found that reactions of nematodes and rodents were remarkably similar when exposed to eight different metals. The results led the researchers, doctoral student Phil Williams and his advisor, Dr. David Dusenbery, to believe that nematode tests could reduce the necessity for more expensive rodent tests in the future.

Many questions remain unanswered. As a result, the two have applied for a federal grant to study possible differences in tolerance levels between rodents and nematodes, along with other possible variables.

Preliminary research was conducted through a grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

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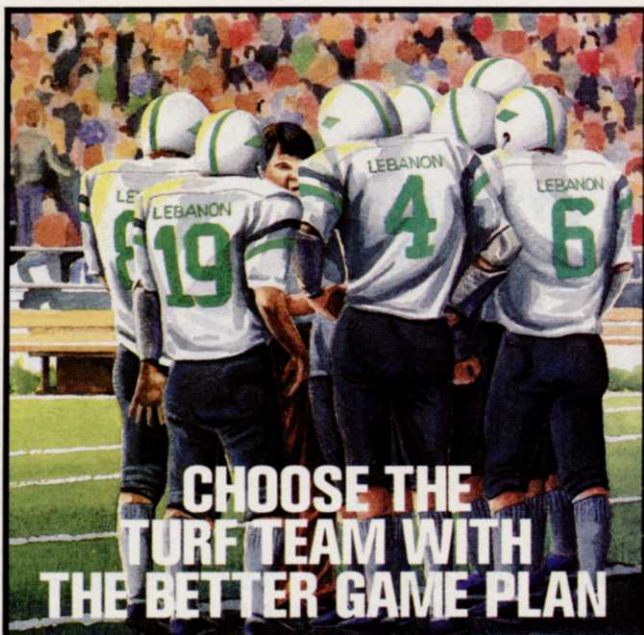
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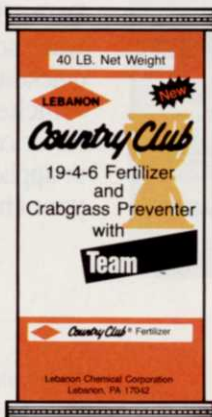
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Since nematodes live in a number of habitats, they may be useful in determining contamination both on land and in water. Because they are easier to grow and control, nematode testing is also easier and less expensive to conduct than those using fish and insects.

While Williams says the nematodes would not be used to replace rodents completely, they "can be useful in streamlining the testing process."

PEOPLE

**GCSAA associate director
embarking on new course**

James G. Prusa, GCSAA associate executive director and director of education, will leave his post to concentrate full time on an independent business venture this year. Prusa planned his departure for the beginning of this month, shortly after the completion of the Phoenix show.



James Prusa



Bob Coyner



Bob Earl

Nelson Colvin has been elected 1987 president of the California Landscape Contractors Association. Colvin is vice president of California Landscape, Inc., Canoga Park, Calif.

Lesco has named **Bob Coyner** product manager for spreaders and sprayers. The company has named **Bob Earl** director of stores for Lesco Service Centers.



Darcy Loscutt



Tom Stanley



Tom Rivers

Jay Glatt, of Turf-Seed, Hubbard, Ore., has retired as vice president and general manager, which he held for eight years, to concentrate on his filbert farm. **Darcy Loscutt** takes over as general manager. **Tom Stanley** was appointed sales manager, which includes advertising.

Rain Bird Sales, has appointed **Tom Rivers** Northeast second Mid-Atlantic district manager for the Turf Division. Also, **Keith Shepersky** has been appointed product

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Keith Shepersky



Steve Ramig



Ralph Nicotera

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