

BASF consolidates U.S. non-crop pesticide operations

RELEASED ON 12/01/13

BASF is consolidating its U.S. non-crop herbicide, insecticide and fungicide businesses into a single department. About 30 jobs will be moving to the Research Triangle Park as part of the change.

Tom Hill, a spokesman for BASF's new specialty products department, said most of what the company sells through its crop protection business is products for application on "big acres to farmers."

In contrast, the specialty department uses the same kinds of chemistry, but in different formulations, he said, for use on golf courses, by pest control companies or for use in nurseries or greenhouses in the ornamentals industry.

The company announced this week that it's consolidating its pest control solutions, professional turf and ornamentals, as well as its professional vegetation management and market business development segments. They'll together be known as the BASF Specialty Products Department.

Hill said only a few jobs will be lost. According to a news release, the business manager roles of the pest control solutions and turf and ornamentals businesses are being dissolved, and the two marketing departments for those divisions are being consolidated.

Dan Carrothers, the former pest control solutions business manager, and Brian Lish, formerly turf and ornamentals business manager, will assume the new roles of marketing manager and strategic account manager.

Both will report directly to Jan Buberl, who will lead the department.

Also as part of the consolidation, BASF is moving about 30 jobs for its pest control solutions business, which was based in St. Louis, to the Research Triangle Park.

"They have been offered the opportunity to take those jobs and just move with them," Hill said. "If they elect not to, they would obviously leave the company."

That company's pest control business was previously based in the Research Triangle Park, Hill said, but was moved to St. Louis following a 2008 acquisition of a pest control manufacturer and marketer.

The manufacturing part of that business will stay in St. Louis., he said.

The new structure is planned to be in place by March 31.

Hill said BASF has more than 700 employees in the Research Triangle Park in its crop protection and plant science as well as in its specialty products divisions.

SOURCE The Herald Sun