

# PackagingNews

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Incorporating **PACKAGING** magazine

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## 150-year-old Field brand vanishes from industry

by Jill Park

The Field name disappeared from the packaging industry at the start of the year after Chesapeake applied its own brand to all its operations.

The Field business was established in 1850 in Bradford under the Firth & Field name. In 1993, the Field Group floated on the London

Stock Exchange, before being acquired by US-based Chesapeake in 1999.

Until this month the group operated under the names Field Group, Field Packaging, Field Boxmore, Field First, Field Rotopack, Arlington Press and Boxmore Plastics.

BPIF Cartons president John Monks said: "Emotion-

ally I will miss it [the Field name], but professionally I understand.

"Field was a short, snappy, easily remembered name and was held in high regard for many years. I guess if the business is trying to appeal more in the US then Chesapeake is an understandable and relevant name."

Chesapeake has established a set of corporate guidelines to ensure the change is implemented in "a controlled and consistent way".

In December, Chesapeake said its 2007 profits were likely to be lower than in 2006 following a dip in sales volumes, particularly in its South African beverage business.

## Budget cut to hit Wrap jobs

by Simeon Goldstein and Gordon Carson

Waste & Resources Action Programme (Wrap) staff will meet with management this month to find out how a 25% cut in the body's budget will affect its work to reduce household packaging waste.

The fall in Wrap's funding, revealed by chief executive Liz Goodwin in December, is likely to lead to a "net reduction" in jobs.

However, Goodwin said Wrap would probably create some new posts to reflect new business priorities.

Goodwin said legislation prevented her from providing any more details about specific business areas affected by the budget cut.

However, she invited staff to take part in a consultation and said she would put forward proposals to representatives at



Goodwin: "job losses likely"

a meeting in early January.

The consultation will last for 31 days and Wrap should be able to "clarify the budget and programmes" for 2008 by early February.

Goodwin said she had considered delaying the announcement until after Christmas, but she wanted to be "as open as I can be".

The cut has been caused by a "very tight" funding settle-

### COURTAULD COMMITMENT PROGRESS

- Wrap is "cautiously optimistic" about achieving the first Courtauld Commitment objective to design out growth in packaging waste by 2008
- Wrap has worked with signatories to develop a consistent reporting approach on the total weight of packaging used by their businesses over the calendar year
- They will start using the new template in Q1 of 2008
- Wrap is also introducing a DIY and home improvement sector initiative, which aims to create a benchmark for product packaging (see Ask Wrap, page 29).

ment for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which funds Wrap.

With contributions from the devolved administrations, Wrap's total budget for this year will be £55m-£60m.

Packaging Federation chief executive Dick Searle said that, "on the basis of a reduction in resources", Wrap should concentrate on "scientifically proven major issues".

"With a smaller budget, it's even more important to focus on reducing food waste and work with local authorities to improve recycling," he said.

His view was echoed by Jane Bickerstaffe, director of the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (Incpen), who hoped that cuts would be made so as "not to affect the good work" Wrap was doing.

## GLA swoops on packaging facility following tip-off

by Jane Ellis

The UK Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) has uncovered poor working conditions and inadequate food safety standards at a vegetable packing plant in Worcestershire.

In December, the GLA raided the premises of Simms

& Woods, of Wyre Piddle, near Evesham, following a tip-off. The authority said it was assessing the information it had gathered before making a decision on the licence status of the three gangmasters involved and the charges to be made.

A Simms & Wood spokesman said the company had "immediately suspended" one of its labour providers for "health and safety infringements" concerning one of its vehicles.

Investigators found an untaxed and uninsured mini-

bus being used to ferry 14 workers from their homes to the warehouse; a "serious hygiene issue" involving food destined for major UK supermarkets; and employees working 60-70 hours a week with only 39 hours recorded on their payslips.