

## Layby “Wheel Sprayer” Kit Controls Under Canopy Weeds

“My new wheel sprayer kit lets you spray herbicides beneath the crop canopy using your existing toolbar. Works great on corn, cotton, and soybeans and is built heavy to last,” says custom sprayer Leslie Estes, Portageville, Mo.

The kit is designed to fit 4 by 4, 5 by 7, and 7 by 7 toolbars and can be mounted on any row spacing. It consists of a series of diagonal metal arms, each equipped with a rubber wheel at the bottom and a head piece on top that clamps onto the toolbar. A single nozzle is located midway between the rows, about 2 ft. ahead of the wheel and 8 in. off the ground. As an option 2 more nozzles can be added, resulting in an extra spray nozzle on each side of the wheel. The nozzles are located about 4 in. off the ground and direct herbicide into the row.

The arm has a bushing welded on the inside, which allows the arm to pivot up or down according to the ground contour. A chain and turnbuckle on back is used to keep all the arms level.

“I originally designed the kit for cotton, but corn growers are also finding it useful,” says Estes. “After corn gets anywhere from knee to waist high, it’s too tall to spray over the top because the canopy blocks the spray from reaching the weeds. Also, spraying herbicides down onto the crop can stunt it. By spraying underneath the leaves you get good herbicide coverage everywhere, and you don’t have to worry about damaging the crop. One customer even uses my layby rig



Photo shows a 12-row layby rig on 38-in. rows set up with Estes’s aftermarket kit. It lets you spray herbicides beneath the crop canopy using your existing toolbar.

on his soybeans after they get tall and bushed out.”

The spray nozzle is mounted on a stainless steel pipe and goes through a 1-in. block. An adjustable set screw allows you to raise or lower the nozzle.

“This type of layby rig isn’t totally new. But no one else offers an aftermarket kit that lets you save money by using your own

toolbar, and no one else builds a unit as strong as mine,” says Estes. “The arm I use is made from 1 1/2 by 3 by 3/16-in. thick steel tubing. The wheel is a standard cultivator gauge wheel equipped with a double stem bearing.”

The aftermarket kit sells for \$300 per row, which doesn’t include plumbing. Estes also came up with an optional “upside down” nozzle for the kit. It’s designed to control

insects hiding under cotton plant leaves by spraying insecticides from the bottom up. It works good to control red spiders. It also works good to control rust on soybeans,” says Estes.

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## Hand-Held Power Brush Preps Cows

Dairymen can eliminate piles of towels with this new hand-held brush that’ll wash, disinfect, stimulate and dry teats in one easy step, says Keith Engel about the new FutureCow™ prep system. It uses GEA Farm Technologies’ chlorine dioxide cleaning solution that can be customized for low, medium and high mastitis control.

“The big advantage is consistency – in stimulation and cleaning,” Engel says, noting that operators only need to forestrip to check for mastitis, and then use the FutureCow brush unit to handle all other pre-milking tasks.

With a little training, milking employees learn how to slip each of the cow’s teats into the FutureCow unit, while pulling and releasing the trigger for cleaning and drying. In a short time, the teat is washed, stimulated

for milking and dried, ready for the milking unit attachment.

The handheld unit is hooked up to a line that glides along a stainless steel aircraft cable track. The line delivers GEA’s ready-to-use cleansing solution to each brush unit.

More than 100 FutureCow Prep Systems have been installed in the U.S. on dairies with herds from 150 to 3,000 cows. The system includes an air-operated pump, tanks and blending device, track, and brush units. The cleaning products, replacement parts and brushes are priced at a flat rate per cow. GEA Farm Technologies professionals are available 24/7 for troubleshooting.

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Hand-held brush uses a chlorine dioxide cleaning solution to wash, disinfect, stimulate and dry teats in one easy step.

## “Easy On” Forklift For Deere Garden Tractor

William Gorge, White Marsh, Md., needed a forklift on his small acreage. So, he built one to go on front of his 1995 Deere 330 23 hp garden tractor. It mounts on a Deere snowplow mounting bracket already on the tractor.

“It’s as easy to install as the snowplow and takes less than 5 min. without any tools,” says Gorge. “It attaches with two steel pins and a couple hooks at the bottom. I didn’t have to make any modifications to the tractor or the snowplow mounting brackets at all. In fact, I don’t know why Deere doesn’t make a forklift for their garden tractors to go with their snowplow mounting bracket. I think it would sell like hotcakes.”

He says he uses the forklift a lot to haul everything from bags of wood pellets and concrete to engines. “It’ll lift up to 43 in. high and can handle loads up to 500 lbs., although I do need wheel weights when I lift that much. I had been using a bigger

self-propelled forklift, but I go on the road a lot and it was a hassle hauling it around on trailers,” he says.

He used 1/2-in. thick by 3-in. wide flat stock to make the forks, which are attached to a carriage and raised up or down by a hydraulic cylinder. The carriage rolls on masts that he made from 2 1/2-in. mechanical tubing and is connected by motorcycle chain to the cylinder. The masts are welded to the snowplow mounting bracket, which consists of a 1/4-in. thick steel plate that slides onto the tractor.

“The tractor originally came with a belly-mounted mower deck, and my forklift uses the same hydraulic system that raised and lowered it,” says Gorge. “I also added a small hydraulic pump on a homemade bracket that bolts on between the masts. The tractor came with two quick disconnects for hydraulic hose on front, and the hydraulic cylinder plugs into them.



Forklift mounts on a snowplow mounting bracket on Gorge’s Deere garden tractor. Forks are attached to a carriage that’s raised up or down by a hydraulic cylinder.



“The forks have slots cut into them on top and can be manually slid out on the carriage up to 18 in. apart.”

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