

Remote Control Designed To Make Pto-Power Jobs Easier

Start pumps and other pto or engine-powered equipment remotely with the Broadcaster 1 remote engine controller. Recently introduced by Sunova WorX for use with manure pumps, grain augers and more, the Broadcaster 1 makes it easy for an operator to control and monitor equipment remotely.

"The remote operator can start the tractor or other engine, activate the pto and control rpm's," says Diane Normand, project manager, Sunova WorX. "What sets our system apart from other remote controllers is that we offer a feedback system. Once installed on an engine, an operator can monitor engine functions like output pressure, engine pressure, oil pressure at the pump and more depending on the sensors installed."

Normand points out that the Broadcaster 1 can be installed on engines with newer electronic systems or older mechanical systems. Sunova WorX even installed one on a 1950's McCormick.

"Farmers often use older tractors as power sources," suggests Normand. "We wanted to show that our controller works fine on tractors of any age."

Brackets do need to be fabricated when used with mechanical systems like the throttle lever or pedal. Similarly, cables are provided to hook into existing electrical switches. A simple jump cable bypasses the controller system and allows the tractor to be operated conventionally.

"We have the ability with newer tractors to connect directly to the CAN bus system," says Normand. "However, that could void the warranty."

Normand emphasizes that each installation is customized to the situation. Installations can be permanent or use portable controllers and be moved from one power source to another.

"Basically we start with how you currently operate, what you would like to control, and what equipment you are currently using," she says. "We have units working with grain augers, opening and closing doors for grain dumping pits, dewatering in oilfields, and even on fire fighting pumps."

A common use for the Broadcaster 1 is manure pumping. It can be used to control drag hose pumps and booster pumps up to 2 miles from a pit and monitor functions up to 3 miles distant. Each booster pump becomes a repeater, extending communications to the next pump. If a problem develops along the length of the hose, the system will shut down almost instantly.

If used with tanker loading, a pipe can be laid with discharge up to 1,500 yards from the pump and set up for multiple operators.

"Each Broadcaster 1 has a personal channel ID with encryption so it will only talk to a remote with the same broadcast channel and encryption," explains Normand. "You can have multiple remotes, so more than one tanker operator can activate the pumping system for reloading. Each operator logs in and out to operate the controller."

Normand suggests that while the initial installation might take several hours if brackets need to be fabricated, considerably less time is needed for repeat use. "After getting acquainted with the controller the



Remote engine controller lets you remotely start pumps and other pto or engine-powered equipment. Works great with manure pumps, grain augers, etc.



Remote controller can start a tractor's engine, activate the pto and control rpm's.

first time, you'll be up and running in half an hour," she says.

Because of customization needed, pricing varies by the job, notes Normand. However, a controller installed on a pumping tractor sells for about \$4,500. One for use on a slurry

dragline starts at about \$7,500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sunova WorX, 196679 19th Line, R.R. 1, Lakeside, Ont., Canada N0M 2G0 (ph 519 349-2075; toll free 888 495-0826; sunovasales@sunova.ca; www.sunova.ca).

Hand-Held Remote Controls Telehandler

Leroy Groening can run most functions of his 1991 Cat RT60 Telehandler using an inexpensive wireless remote control. He can start, stop, raise, lower, extend and retract the boom as well as tilt the attachment. He can also move the telehandler forward and back and switch hydraulic speed between slow and fast. About the only things he can't do are turn and brake.

"I do a lot of work around the farm by myself," explains Groening. "The remote makes it a lot easier to do things like cover a stack of bales with a tarp. I can lift myself and a tarp up and throw the tarp over the stack."

Groening expects the remote to come in handy when doing construction or maintenance such as painting. He bought the telehandler this summer along with attachments such as pallet forks, work platform, bucket and bale grab. He says the remote has already come in handy for things like loading and unloading, lining up the quick-tach pins or positioning the unit.

"When you're in the cab, you can't see everything you need to," says Groening. "It also lets me easily shut off the engine to save

fuel and unnecessary hours."

Groening purchased the 12-button remote handset transmitter and receiver on eBay and built a control board with relays that manages telehandler function switches. He then wired the receiver with its 12 relays to the board.

"When I activate a button on the remote, it bypasses the original switch and activates the function on the telehandler," explains Groening. "For example, I bypassed the key on and engine start switch so one button turns the key on and starts the engine, locking it on. Another button opens the relay to shut the engine down."

Testing to find the right switch for the various joystick functions was the most difficult aspect of the project, recalls Groening. "The older telehandler was fairly easy to work with," he says. "Newer equipment with more electronics and computer controls may be more difficult to adapt."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Groening, P.O. Box 266, Lowe Farm, Man., Canada R0G 1E0 (ph 204 746-2063; lginnovations@hotmail.com).



Using an inexpensive wireless remote control, Leroy Groening can start, stop, raise, lower, extend and retract the boom on his Cat Telehandler.



Groening bought the 12-button remote handset transmitter and receiver on eBay (on left) and built a control board with relays (on right that manages telehandler function switches.

He Gave New Life To Old Wheelbarrow

Jack McGee makes a special connection with his deceased father every time he hauls a load of firewood. McGee uses the same wheelbarrow frame his dad used for 50 years.

"We're going to get another 50 years of use out of it," McGee says.

The Lake City, Mich., building contractor sanded and repainted the legs and hardware that held the wheelbarrow's original tub and steel wheel, and he purchased a new wheel and tire.

He carved handles out of 2 by 2 ash and used ash boards to build a slatted bed. He left the sides open to haul long lengths of firewood for his outdoor stove, but he uses it to haul other stuff, too.

"Ash works well because it's strong but lightweight," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack McGee, 4330 W. Houghton Lake Rd., Lake City, Mich. 49651 (ph 231 839-2765).



Jack McGee updated the wooden wheelbarrow his dad had used for 50 years. He carved new handles and built a slatted bed, leaving the sides open to haul long lengths of firewood.