

GAS-POWERED, HAND HELD SPRAYER CUTS RATES BY AS MUCH AS 75%

LP Spray Gun "Blasts" Chemicals Onto Plants

A gas-powered spray gun developed in Australia and soon to be available in the U.S. can cut chemical rates as much as 75% for specialty applications.

Inventor Alan Murphy told FARM SHOW the first-of-its-kind spray gun is powered by LP-gas carried in a small backpack-transported cylinder. "The gas is at about 150 psi. A high-pressure hose transports the gas from the regulator to the gun. The gas passes through a control valve, activated by the trigger, into a chamber behind the chemical plunger. The pressure forces the plunger forward and, as the trigger is released, the gas is expelled through the control valve, out the bottom of the gun handle into the air. Springs return the plunger and the front chamber charges with chemical," explains Murphy.

What's the advantage of using LP-gas to power the sprayer versus pressurized air?

"If you filled our cylinders — 10-in. long by 3 in. in dia. — with air at 150 psi you would only be able to shoot 10 times. If you use LP-gas at 150 psi, you can spray more than 1,000 shots of chemical because LP is liquid at low doses, and therefore has 100 to 200 times more volume when compressed. So you only need a small cylinder to contain a large volume," says Murphy.

Gas escapes in small quantities out the base of the gun handle after each shot. "If you hold a match to it you hear only a small pop because there's so little gas used. It's very safe," notes Murphy.

In one day's spraying you would use 1 or 2 gas cylinders at 1,000 shots apiece. You can carry a chemical supply on your back, since the gun uses spray at just 1/4 the rate of most sprayers, or shoot from a tractor or ATV-carried spray tank.



LP-gas to power spray gun can be carried in backpack for specialty spray jobs.

The spray gun, which has been on the market for 2 years in Australia, has caught on fast for use on specialty crops and in orchards. Murphy says it also works great to de-lice livestock as well as for foresters who use it as a dye marker when thinning trees.

"Because of the blast effect of the gun you can use much less water when spraying and get more effective control," says Murphy, who's awaiting U.S. government approval of the sprayer before he can begin North American exports. The gun sells for about \$500 including gun, regulator, two gas cylinders, nozzles and spare parts kit.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag-Murf Engineering, P.O. Box 481, 17 Siren St., Dubbo 2830 N.S.W. Australia (ph 068 82 4366).



Lee Williams turns "junked" truck-mounted spreaders into tractor-pulled trailer spreaders.

"DOES THE WORK OF A \$100,000 RIG"

Converted 'Big Wheel' Pulled By Tractor

"You can do just as much work with one of our converted \$3,500 rigs as you can with a \$100,000 'Big Wheel,'" says Lee Williams, of Princeton, Ill., who specializes in converting used truck-mounted fertilizer spreaders into low-cost, tractor-towed trailers.

Williams, who makes a business of the conversions in his machine shop, sells converted truck spreaders for \$3,500 to \$3,800, depending on condition of the truck being converted, a saving over new cost of about \$9,300, he figures. "The conversions are catching on fast," says Williams who estimates he's sold "right at 400 in about 8 different states."

He buys most any kind of used truck spreader so long as there's enough metal left to sandblast paint. He buys both truck and chassis with a "junk" title, then junks out the rest of the truck after salvaging what he can use. "We like to find used truck spreaders with cast spoke wheels. This makes it possible to put on flotation tires," he notes. "A couple of

changes are necessary when converting from truck to farm tractor power. For one, a truck pto has a rotation just opposite that of a tractor. I correct that by adding a left hand worm and pinion."

Truck pto's normally turn at 1,000 rpm. Williams adapts his conversions to run at normal tractor pto speed of 1,000 or 540. He also designs his conversions so there's no more than a ton of loaded weight on the tractor drawbar. "With our conversions, you can vary application rates simply by changing tractor gears," he points out. "The apron is run with the pto, and the spinners are turned with an orbit motor."

Williams says most conversions he makes carry an 8 to 10 ton load, but he can go as high as 22 tons, depending on the original truck spreader.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Williams, McHenry Machine Co., Rt. 4, Princeton, Ill. 61356 (ph 815 875-1953).

TRIGGERS SIREN IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

"Pocket Alarm" Sends Farmer Distress Signal

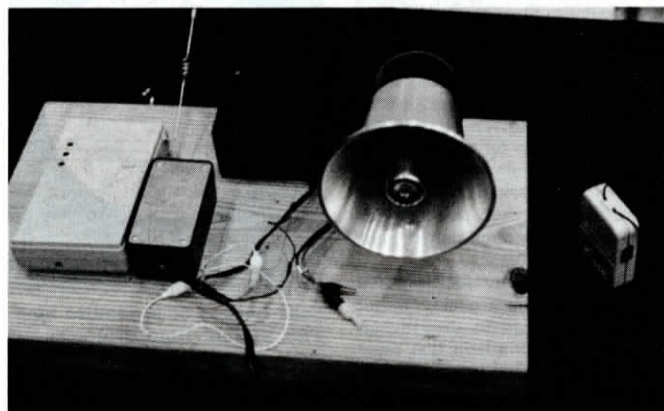
"It lets farmers easily call for help in case of an emergency," says Jim Robinson, manufacturer of a new remote control "pocket alarm".

Robinson's alarm system consists of a screamingly loud siren that mounts on the tractor, combine or other farm equipment, or on the outside of a building — such as a silo — around the farm. The operator of the equipment — or anyone working in the silo or around dangerous equipment — carries a pocket transmitter

that's smaller than a pack of cigarettes. In case of trouble, he simply presses a button on the side of the transmitter and it sets off the alarm.

You can buy more than one transmitter and the horn and receiver can be moved from place to place, as needed.

Robinson says the alarm siren is extremely loud and can be heard from miles away. Unit can also be rigged up as a night alarm to protect equipment, or as a signalling device for



Pocket transmitter, right, sends distress signal to siren which mounts on equipment or around farm buildings.

non-emergency use. Sells for \$199. An optional strobe light is available for use in place of siren.

For more information, contact:

FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Robinson, J & D Co., Rt. 5, Box 178, Monroe, Ga. 30655.