



"It lets me spray my fields without looking back," says Phil Rathbun, who converted a 3-pt. mounted sprayer with an 80-ft. boom to a front-mount model.



A pair of big spray tanks mount on a 3-pt. platform that rides behind Rathbun's Deere tractor.

## Front-Mounted Spray Boom Improves Visibility, Accuracy

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

"I bought a Schabin 3-point sprayer with an 80-foot boom a few years ago and after the first day of using it decided I was going to unscrew my neck trying to operate it," says

Oregon farmer Phil Rathbun. "I went to my shop, drew up some plans, then found some scrap metal and built a mounting system that moved the boom to the front of the tractor. Now I can see both ends of the 80-ft. boom and spray my fields without looking back."

Rathbun mounted the spray boom to his Deere 8310 using the bracket that holds the tractor weights. He added lateral bracing that attaches to the tractor frame. Another alteration was to exchange the end sections of the boom so their breakaway was toward the tractor rather than forward. The entire boom raises and lowers about 3 1/2 ft. on the original sprayer frame.

Rathbun mounted the 400-gal. spray tank on a 3-pt. platform that rides behind the tractor. "I used that arrangement, which puts weight behind the rear wheels, rather than adding saddle tanks and extra weight in the middle of the tractor," Rathbun says. "We're spraying potatoes so we're running between the rows and need to equalize weight distribution as much as possible."

Liquid is delivered to the spray boom through a hydraulic pump and a Deere rate controller, which turns the boom off in 9 different sections to eliminate overlaps on



Spray boom mounts on a bracket that holds tractor's front weights.

point rows.

"The only problem I experienced with the whole setup was the fact that my 8310 didn't have independent-link suspension, so the boom would start bouncing and dog walking when I was turning," Rathbun says. "That

problem went away when I mounted it on the front of my Deere 8530."

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Flaps down the center fit around the gas pipe that runs through opening.

## Rubber Seal Keeps Birds Off Propane Tanks

"We got tired of birds and other small critters nesting under the dome on our propane tanks," says Ron Forbes, inventor of the ProDomeSeal - a simple rubber cover that closes off the opening on propane tank domes.

The new seal has slots on the sides that fit tightly into standard openings, which are 3 in. wide by 4 in. high. Flaps down the center fit around the gas pipe that runs through the opening.

"You can slip one into place in seconds. It won't get in the way at all when opening and closing the dome but birds won't be able to get in," says Forbes.

ProDomeSeal sells for \$9.99 apiece with free shipping in the U.S.



Slots on sides of cover fit tightly into standard openings on lid.

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ProDomeSeal is designed to keep birds from nesting under a propane tank's lid.