

SPECIAL FEATURE



Flame sterilisation can help to eradicate disease in poultry sheds

By *PETER BEDWELL*

Sydney based poultry shed equipment specialist Gameco, is importing a range of liquid propane powered flame sterilisation tools from Flame Engineering Inc of Kansas, USA.

The equipment can be used in a range of agricultural industries but the latest item in Flame Engineering's line up is the Red Dragon Poultry House Flame Sterilizer.

Amongst the many benefits Flame Engineering claim for the Red Dragon Poultry Shed Sterilizer is that it flares off ammonia vapours, is less expensive than many chemically based alternatives, does not involve run-off residues or potential

water source contamination and the intense heat generated by the Red Dragon (approx 750 degrees centigrade) effectively kills pathogens.

Because it is a non-chemical solution to pathogen control the equipment is finding favour with organic and other alternative production methods, according to Flame Engineering.

Best results have been obtained with the unit by flaming bare floors and litter after clean out and following de-caking.

The business end of the Red Dragon consists of 6 LT 2x8 liquid propane torches that project intense sweeping flames under

the substantial steel hood.

The Red Dragon is designed to fit a conventional tractor three-point hitch with a 12-volt ignition system that connects to the tractor's battery.

The flamer is designed to carry a standard 120 (US) gallon propane tank, but smaller tanks can be used.

In field trials, with the unit travelling at 1/2 mph gas consumption was approximately 35 gallons flaming a typical 40'x 300' poultry shed.

Flaming is not a new technique by any means and Flame Engineering record flaming equipment being used to sterilise