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NEW FERTILIZER ADDITIVE IS PINK

Some of the best innovative inventions in agriculture have come from farmers. This time an Illinois farmer was fed up with methamphetamine cooks stealing his anhydrous ammonia all the time. His idea was to create a theft deterrent and marking agent.

The farmer approached a chemist about two years ago asking if he could help him develop a chemical that would mark people or stain them when tampering with his anhydrous ammonia tanks. Furthermore, the product needed to alter the final meth product and not hurt the fertilizer solution and humans or the environment.

An Illinois senator helped the farmer cut through red tape to get the chemical developed. The farmer needed to work with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to actually allow researchers to cook up batches of methamphetamine and not get arrested. He also needed help in linking up with research scientists at Southern Illinois University for development of a dye.

The new product for anhydrous ammonia is called GloTell™ which is a new anti-theft deterrent with anhydrous ammonia. The dye works good enough, even if you are successful in finally washing the pink off your skin, you are glowing for 24 to 72 hours. The glow is detectable by ultraviolet lights.

In addition to staining the hands and clothing of those who tamper with anhydrous ammonia equipment, the chemical causes the finished product to turn a pinkish color. The pink ammonia serves as a leak detector, staining the valves, pipes or fittings on tanks where an ammonia leak is occurring. The new additive had to withstand the cold, corrosive nature of anhydrous ammonia. It had to be safe for the environment, safe for crops and safe around children.

Besides the thieves turning pink, the new dye alters the drug such that it is difficult to dry and it turned the end product into an unbleachable pink. Drug users will see the end product does not look very good at all. Users will see pink injection sites on their skin and if it is snorted, their nose turns fluorescent pink.

In Illinois, farmers having historical problems with people stealing anhydrous, saw an immediate change in about one week. No more thefts. The cost is reported to be in the neighbor hood of \$9.00 per ton.

Theft detection can be difficult for area farmers because thieves stealing anhydrous for making meth typically don't take a lot at any one time. In fact, many farmers will not realize it until a thief leaves their hoses attached to the valves.

When talking to the Saline County Sheriff's Department, Saline County has been fortunate this fall as anhydrous thefts have not been very prominent in our area. There have been times the Sheriff's Department would receive 1or 2 reports per week. Local authorities have been doing an excellent job with drug enforcement.



For more information about the new product, whose sole purpose was to stop anhydrous theft for meth lab use, go to: www.glotell.com

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