

Cessna Enters Ag-Plane Market

Cessna Aircraft Company of Wichita, Kan., has stepped into the agricultural aircraft field with the introduction of its *Agwagon*. Maiden flight of the new single-engine plane was made on Feb. 19, and production plans will be determined after a test program on the prototype has been conducted.

Powered by a 230 h.p. Continental 0-470R engine, the *Agwagon* has a length of 25 feet 5 inches, a height of 7 feet 7½ inches, and a span of 41 feet 2 inches. Detailed specifications and performance figures of the aircraft have not been announced. It is expected that the plane will retail in the \$13,000 to \$15,000 price area.

In commenting on Cessna's decision to enter the ag plane market, V. G. Weddle, Cessna's commercial division vice-president and general manager,

said his company became interested in the field because more than 30% of today's agricultural fleet is 20 or more years old. "These aircraft are becoming expensive to maintain because of the shortage of spare parts and many of them are being used solely to provide parts for other aircraft of the same type," Weddle added. "With the *Agwagon*," he said, "Cessna will have a modern airplane incorporating all the design advances which have been made in the agricultural aircraft field."

The plane is designed to meet the aerial applicators' own desires regarding such features as speeds, loads, dispersal rates, price and aircraft configuration, according to Cessna officials. The aircraft will be capable of dispersing agricultural chemicals in either spray or dust form. ●

Cessna Aircraft Company's new *Agwagon*

