



**For Immediate Release**

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**Ray Newcomb of Pembroke, New Hampshire Elected 2024 NAAA President**

ALEXANDRIA, VA – January 18, 2024 – The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) is pleased to announce that Ray Newcomb of Pembroke, New Hampshire has been elected president of NAAA for 2024. Newcomb is the owner of JBI Helicopter Services, an aerial application business.

JBI Helicopter Services has 97 employees and 20 aircraft. About 48% of JBI’s work is agricultural and they also treat forest land, conduct powerline patrol services and external load transporting. The company treats 410,000 agricultural acres a year in 32 states from Maine to Washington state.

Newcomb’s passion for aviation, long-time career in agricultural aviation and protecting the best interests of the industry make it easy to understand why he was chosen as NAAA’s new president. At NAAA, Newcomb has served on the NAAA Board of Directors since 2017, including treasurer in 2023 and secretary in 2022. He has also been active in chairing NAAA’s committees including Budget & Finance Committee Chairman in 2023, Governing Documents Committee Chairman in 2022 and Vice Chairman in 2020 and 2021 and Government Relations Vice Chairman in 2022.

Newcomb looks forward to communicating the many benefits NAAA provides to the industry and the general public in regard to education. “People have a right to know what we’re doing just as I have a right to do what I’m doing,” said Newcomb. He believes that publicly addressing people’s concerns has been a benefit of paramount importance to the work of aerial applicators. “Educating the public is a big thing. They understand our importance once it's been explained to them.”

Regarding agriculture’s future, Newcomb stated, “the world's not getting any smaller. There's eight billion people now on the planet and that continues to increase. Also, there is going to be an expanding corn and soybean market to refine ethanol and biodiesel. Agricultural technology has been and will continue to be the saving grace.”

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*The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) represents the interests of the 1,560 small businesses in the U.S., whose owners and pilots are licensed as professional commercial aerial applicators that use aircraft to enhance food, fiber, and biofuel production, protect forestry and control health-threatening pests. For more information, please visit [AgAviation.org](http://AgAviation.org).*