

NAAA eNewsletter

Recording of Monday's Successful NAAREF In-Season Safety Session, Loaded with Excellent Tips, Now Online

The NAAREF in-season safety session held on June 6 was a great success. Over 100 people participated in the session. Five PAASS presenters served as panelists, including 2022 NAAA President Jim Perrin, 2022 NAAREF President Matt Hovdenes, 2017 NAAA President and former NAAREF President Dominique Youakim, longtime operator and ag pilot Craig Bair, and Brian Townsend, an aerial applicator who operates rotary and fixed-wing aircraft but primarily sprays with a helicopter. Cory Richtmyre joined Jim Perrin, whom Perrin is currently mentoring into the ag aviation industry.

The panelists opened the discussion by reviewing accident trends from the 2021 and 2022 seasons, with key takeaways being high numbers of wire-strike accidents and accidents involving helicopters. They then focused the discussion on wire-strike avoidance, the vital importance of an operator's devoted mentorship, and helicopter operations.

A video of the NAAREF in-season safety session can be viewed [here](#).

First-Year Agricultural Aviator Killed in Second Fatal Ag Accident of 2022

Petra Sobotka was killed in an ag aviation accident in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on May 28, just days after turning 45. Petra was born May 22, 1977, in Plzen, Czechoslovakia. When she was 10, her family escaped communist Czechoslovakia and fled to West Germany. After spending three years in West Germany, the family traveled to Canada, where they were granted visas.

Petra's determination in life led her to become a successful pilot. She had recently begun her career in agricultural aviation. Before that, she was a pilot and first officer with Southern Air Inc. and KF Aerospace-Kelowna Flightcraft. The NAAA family and all of its aerial application brethren offer their condolences to Petra's family at this trying time of loss.

Petra is survived by her husband as well as her mother and father. There are no services scheduled at this time. Visit [here](#) to send flowers to the family.

Judge Halts California Spray Program Citing Health Risk

Sacramento County Superior Court Judge James Arguelles has ordered the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to suspend its pesticide spray program, ruling that state officials failed to adequately assess the chemicals' health risks.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture authorized the Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program in 2014, which endorsed the application of pesticides on public lands and some private property to "prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insect or animal pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds" as threats to California agriculture. The order will halt applications under the Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program within two months, exempting projects whose environmental impact reports have already won court approval.

Judge Arguelles's decision follows a state appeals court's decision in October that found the CDFA understated the amount of pesticide it uses and failed to account for potential harm to waterways, bees and other pollinators. The rulings against the CDFA resulted from consolidated suits brought by the North Coast Rivers Alliance and Environmental Working Group. The environmental and health groups have charged that the more than 75 pesticides used by the program didn't fully look into all the environmental factors.

The injunction will stay in place until the agency corrects violations of the California Environmental Quality Act cited by the courts.

2022 NAAA Membership Directory & Annual Report Mails

The 2022 NAAA Membership Directory & Annual Report is en route. Most members should receive their copy within the next two weeks.

The NAAA Membership Directory & Annual Report is an indispensable asset, and as the title suggests, it is only available to our valued members. At 236 pages, this year's directory is filled with valuable information. As always, it is loaded with operator and pilot contacts, as well as contact information for the premier suppliers of parts and services to the industry.

Other items of interest in the 2022 directory include NAAA's Member Code of Conduct; information about NAAA's NPDES pesticide general permit compliance resources; checklists for how to respond to a UAV encounter with an ag aircraft or if fired upon while operating an ag aircraft; an overview of NAAA's tower safety outreach resources; a detailed timeline of milestones and key accomplishments since the birth of the agricultural aviation industry 100 years ago; and interesting facts about the aerial application industry; plus, details on various education, training and outreach resources available to members at little to no cost. The directory also contains several handy forms, including the NAAA Awards Nomination Form and the 2022 NAAA "Ag Wings of Tomorrow" Scholarship Application.

We have gone to great lengths to ensure the accuracy of our membership listings but also recognize that perfection is a moving target. If your contact information has changed, you can update it at any time by logging into your member account at [AgAviation.org](https://www.agaviation.org). Enter your username and password and click on “Your Account” to get started. Don’t forget to click SAVE CHANGES at the bottom of the page to record your changes. Those changes will sync in real time with NAAA’s Online Member Directory.

While you’re at it, add a headshot or company logo to your profile and become one of the faces of the aerial application industry. If you have any problems logging into NAAA’s website, call (202) 546-5722 for assistance.

Thank you for being a member of NAAA and for the work you do to ensure a safe, affordable and abundant supply of food, fiber and bioenergy for the world. It’s the continued support of people like you that helps sustain this great industry.

Explore Members’ Grassroots Efforts and More Tower Safety Resources on NAAA Website

The story of Minnesota operator Ryan Lubben’s comments seeking modifications to the Dodge County Wind Project, which was first reported in [last week’s NAAA eNewsletter](#), has been added to the [Grassroots Efforts](#) page of the Towers Policy section of NAAA’s website. The Grassroots Efforts page features articles chronicling steps NAAA members have taken that have led to the successful passage of meteorological evaluation tower (MET) marking laws in their states or enabled constructive dialogues with state legislatures and local tower erectors regarding the hazards that METs and poorly placed wind turbines present to aerial applicators.

The [Towers Policy](#) section of the website features a variety of tower safety resources. Here are some of them.

Tower Safety Resources

Tower Issue Brief: NAAA’s tower issue brief provides the history and current status of tower marking and logging efforts on the national level and is updated several times a year to account for new developments. This valuable resource—NAAA’s primary resource when talking to federal legislators—serves as an informational guide for members and state legislators when discussing tower issues.

Public Outreach Tools: Landowners are being asked to make crucial decisions that will impact farmers and their neighbors for years to come. It’s up to everybody in the industry to educate the public about the consequences that ill-planned wind energy development can have on agriculture and aviation. NAAA created a series of [Wind Tower Safety Ad Slicks](#), [radio scripts](#), [Tower Safety Stuffers](#) and [meteorological evaluation tower-marking warning letters](#) for members to use in their markets that raise awareness about the problematic effects of wind energy development on agriculture and aviation.

“[Learn Before You Lease](#)” is the newest ad in NAAA’s suite of wind tower safety ads, which are made for co-branding. [Offered in multiple sizes](#), operators and state associations can localize the ad slick by adding their logo to it.

Safe Tower Distance for Ag Aircraft Turns: NAAA developed useful information to refute proposed setback distances from wind turbines and other tower-like obstructions. The information may be used by operators and state associations when dealing with wind farm and tower companies claiming that their obstructions do not hamper aerial application activities to crops.

Explore these and more tower resources at [AgAviation.org/towers](https://www.agaviation.org/towers).

FAA’s GA Survey for 2021 Coming to a Close

The FAA’s annual General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey (GA Survey) is coming to an end. There are still a couple of weeks left to participate, so if you received the invitation but haven’t completed it yet, now is the time.

The GA Survey is for reporting on activity for the calendar year 2021 and is the only source of information available that provides reliable data on the GA fleet, including the number of aircraft and hours flown. The GA Survey is especially important to the agricultural aviation industry. NAAA uses the results to calculate an overall accident rate and a fatal accident rate for Part 137 operations.

Participation in the GA Survey is voluntary, but the agricultural aviation industry needs your input. If you are selected to participate in the GA Survey, you will receive an email or postcard invitation asking you to complete the survey online. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete the survey and the information is confidential.

If you have questions, please contact Tetra Tech, the independent research firm that conducts the GA Survey for the FAA, toll-free at 1-800-826-1797 or by email at infoaviationsurvey@tetratech.com.

If you have three or more aircraft, you can contact Tetra Tech to get the shorter form.

FAA Proposes AD for Bell 204, 205, 210 Helicopters

The FAA has proposed adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Bell Textron Inc. Model 204B, 205A, 205A-1, 205B and 210 helicopters. (Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. previously held Bell Textron Inc.’s type certificate.)

The proposed AD was prompted by events involving failure of the tail boom attachment structure. It would require revising the existing Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) for the helicopters and repetitive inspections of structural components that attach the tail boom to the fuselage. Depending on the results of the inspections, the proposed AD would require removing certain parts from service or re-bonding the structure.

The complete proposal is available [here](#). To submit a comment, click the previous link or [use this link](#) to reach the comment portal directly. Comments are due to the FAA by July 22.

FAA Issues AD for Bell 212 and 412 Helicopters

The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Bell Textron Inc. Model 212, 412, 412CF and 412EP helicopters. It was prompted by a report of a cracked check valve. This AD requires inspecting certain engine oil and fuel check valves and, depending on the results, repetitively inspecting and removing the check valve from service. The directive also prohibits installing affected engine oil and fuel check valves on any helicopter.

The complete AD may be viewed [here](#). Action is required within 25 hours time-in-service or 30 days, whichever occurs first after the AD takes effect July 6.

NAAA Operator Member Explains Adverse Effects a Proposed Wind Project Will Have on Minnesota Aerial Applicators, Farmers

A Minnesota aerial applicator did such a thorough job explaining the adverse effects a proposed wind energy project would have on aerial applicators and the farmers they serve in the affected area that his comments to a state official conducting an environmental review serve as an outstanding model for any aerial applicators grappling with infrastructure projects that could affect their ability to serve area farmers.

Ryan Lubben owns West Central Ag-Air Inc. in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, but has frequently spent time applying fungicides and insecticides on farms a few hours south of Fergus Falls in Dodge County, Minnesota. His [comments](#) to an environmental review manager at the Minnesota Department of Commerce systematically explain why the NextEra Energy Resources [Dodge County Wind Project](#), as currently planned, would be incompatible with aerial applicators' ability to safely provide services to farmers located within the wind project's widespread footprint.

As an opening salvo, Lubben provided facts about the aerial application industry and his company's operations, but then he went several steps further to highlight the importance of aerial application to farmers and clearly illustrate the unacceptable safety risks the densely clustered wind turbine project would present to aerial applicators. The comments came together rather quickly once he gathered a few Surety maps and overlaid his GPS logs onto them.

Before getting into the hazards of the proposed wind farm, Lubben gave examples of three reasons why growers need to retain the ability to use ag aircraft. The three reasons he cited were efficiency, economics and environmental benefits. For his economics example, Lubben wrote:

Growers in the area typically get an average of a 17 bushel increase in corn yield by applying a fungicide during the tassel stage of development. (Per conversation with a local grower) Using today's cash corn price of \$7.63/bushel, this equates to an increase of \$129 per acre. My company would charge roughly \$21/acre for this application including chemical. That translates to \$108 per acre of profit for the farmer, or a 500% return on investment!

Lubben then moved into the "show" portion of his show-and-tell comments, using his own Surety maps and GPS logs to illustrate to the environmental review manager how the proposed wind turbine construction would jeopardize his and other aerial applicators' ability to safely enter, exit and return to farmers' fields in the areas surrounded by the wind turbine clusters and the associated transmission line.

Lubben included the map below of the Dodge County Wind Project area and explained that the GPS flight tracks from his operation for one season were overlaid onto it.

FIG. 1

Next, Lubben illustrated safe turnaround distances necessary to make aerial applications safely (see Fig. 2 below):

FIG. 2

This map shows the GPS flight tracks from a typical field being sprayed. The blue lines are the flight path and the red lines are the actual spray swaths.

As you can see, the aircraft needs quite a large area to have room in order to turn around on the end of the field. In fact, most of the flying takes place outside of the field being treated. The distance needed for this particular aircraft is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. As a rule of thumb, and [the] aircraft needs a full mile of distance on the end of the field to make a safe turn around. Obstacle free turn around areas is critical for these aircraft as the turnaround maneuver is when the aircraft is quite slow and vulnerable to an aerodynamic stall. The applicator must remain focused at this point and cannot be distracted by obstacles, and must have ample room to make the maneuver.

Finally, Lubben included a map showing the proposed locations of the Dodge Center wind turbines in the western portion of the project area (see Fig. 3).

FIG. 3

Each red dot indicates a turbine location. I have highlighted the fields in yellow which would not meet the criteria of having a one mile turn around obstacle free zone on the end of the field. I estimate this map to be a conservative representation of what fields cannot be serviced by ag aircraft. ... this is just a portion of the wind farm area. There will be many more fields affected.

Clearly this proposed wind farm will have far reaching impacts on growers in the area in regard to aerial application. Quite frankly the density and random turbine layout will make it impossible for aerial applicators to work safely. Furthermore, it may be impossible for growers in the area to even entice an applicator to come in and do any work in the larger area.

Lubben isn't opposed to all wind turbine projects and has even had success working around another wind energy site not far from the proposed NextEra Energy Resources wind project. He closed his comments by pointing out the distinctions between the two wind projects:

The incredibly large scope and density of the Dodge County wind turbine layout is what is the issue here. Changes can be made for the area to keep aerial application while still producing wind power. A perfect example of this is the McNeilus wind farm located just two miles south of the Dodge Center airport. This wind farm has the towers lined up and contained in a small area. I have actually been quite comfortable spraying fields in this area because I know I can exit the turbine area in a straight line and make my turn arounds outside of the wind farm. This could easily be done in the proposed wind farm by orientating the wind towers in groups or in straight lines and leaving a mile buffer between groups or lines to allow room for aircraft turn arounds.

Lubben's full comments are available [here](#). NAAA commends Ryan for his sophisticated yet simplified explanation of the ramifications that ill-planned wind energy projects can inflict on aerial applicators and their farming customers.

Brazilian, U.S. Aerial Application Have Solid Diplomatic Relations

Fernandes de Souza with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture (right) visited Jeff Chorman at his aerial application operation in Milton, Delaware.

In late May, NAAA and Delaware aerial applicator Jeff Chorman were treated to a solid introduction to Brazilian aerial application when Lucas Fernandes de Souza with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture visited the nation's capital. De Souza traveled to the U.S. to learn more about the U.S. aerial application industry as well as educate about Brazilian ag aviation. De Souza works in a division within Brazil's Agriculture Ministry that specifically deals with aerial application. The country is currently trying to modernize its regulations dealing with aerial application, and de Souza was on a fact-finding mission to learn more about the U.S. ag aviation industry's government regulations.

NAAA CEO Andrew Moore met with de Souza at NAAA's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

De Souza visited Jeff Chorman at Allen Chorman & Son Inc. at their operation in Milton, Delaware, and then visited NAAA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Brazilian regulations require a human observer to be in the application field to relay field conditions to the ag pilot. NAAA informed de Souza that ag aircraft in the U.S. are equipped with either smokers or meteorological measurement technology, such as AIIMS, to provide the pilot information about wind direction, movement, etc., in lieu of requiring a human observer in the field. Brazilian aerial application operations must submit monthly reports to the Brazilian Ag Ministry documenting the type of aircraft they used, the crops and type of pesticides used, and total acreage and acreage location, whereas U.S. operations only need to keep such records on file at their operations' headquarters. Brazilian operators must also have containment pools equaling the capacity of all of their aircraft's hoppers to contain the water from their washed aircraft. The pools are typically enclosed to allow the water to evaporate more expeditiously.

Register for InfoAg Conference at the TFI Member Rate

The Fertilizer Institute invites NAAA members to register for the 2022 InfoAg Conference at the TFI member rate—the lowest rates offered. InfoAg is the premier event for ag retail agronomy leaders and field professionals to explore innovations in agriculture, including aerial application and drone technologies. The conference takes place July 26-27 in St. Louis, Missouri. [Click to register](#) and learn more. Use promo code **FERT22** at checkout to save. Contact Alice McKinnon at amckinnon@tfi.org for more information.

NAAA Earns Solid Returns for News Release Promoting 'Find Aerial Applicator' Public Database

On May 23, NAAA issued a [news release](#) declaring that aerial applicators are ready to support farmers in need of fast, timely and effective applications this growing season. The release also noted that NAAA's "[Find an Aerial Applicator](#)" [public database](#) is available

to connect those in need of aerial application services to an NAAA aerial application operator near them.

To date, NAAA's "Find an Aerial Applicator" news release has garnered coverage from Farm Journal's [AgWeb](#) website and [AgWeb AM](#) newsletter, [The Daily Scoop](#), the [Aero-News Network](#), [WHBL.com](#) in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and [AgAir Update's](#) website.

After a productive 2021 spraying season, the release stated that NAAA expects demand for aerial application services to be even greater this summer as farmers strive to protect their crops from yield-robbing weeds, disease and insect pests in an effort to bolster the global food supply. "With everything going on in the world, including food supply issues, aerial application is going to be vital this year," NAAA CEO Andrew Moore said. "Because aerial applicators will be in such high demand, NAAA strongly advises farmers to schedule work with them in advance whenever possible."

The release cited an NAAA survey that found that 4 out of 5 aerial applicators treated the same or more acres in 2021 than in 2020, including 57% that treated more than they did the year before. Several signs point to aerial applicators being even busier this summer. Leading pesticide manufacturers recently informed NAAA that they believe fungicide applications could be 20% higher than in 2021 when 55 million acres of plant health products were sprayed. Furthermore, even with tight supplies and higher input costs, farmers will be counting on aerial applicators to help them maximize their crop output while commodity prices remain high.

Agricultural aviators treat 127 million acres of cropland in the United States each year and perform a variety of services that help farmers increase productivity and protect their crops. Data from a [Texas A&M University economics study](#) calculated that the aerial application industry's value to farmers, input suppliers, processors and agricultural transportation and storage industries for corn, wheat, cotton, soybeans and rice production alone in the U.S. is about \$37 billion annually. That figure is expected to grow substantially and in importance as food prices increase and food production becomes an issue of growing importance due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply and demand issues, and a growing global population.

A downloadable version of the "Find an Aerial Applicator" news release is available [here](#).

Update Your 'Find an Aerial Applicator' Listing

NAAA's "Find an Aerial Applicator" search tool can be found at [AgAviation.org/findapplicator](#) or on any page of NAAA's website by clicking on the "[Find an Aerial Applicator](#)" link in the upper right-hand corner.

The "Find an Aerial Applicator" lookup tool gives NAAA Operator, Affiliated Operator and Lifetime Operator members the option of promoting their services to farmers and other potential customers by listing their company in NAAA's narrowly tailored public database. The database only provides enough information to give farmers, municipalities and others who may need the services of an aerial applicator a mechanism to locate and contact the NAAA operators nearest to them. Search results return the name of the company, the business number on file, the operator's city and state, and the aerial application operation's website if there is one.

Operator, Affiliated Operator and Lifetime Operator members can update their "Find an Aerial Applicator" listing by following these steps:

1. Log into [AgAviation.org](#) with your username and password.
2. Once logged in, click on "Your Account" in the upper right-hand corner.
3. When your profile information pops up, scroll down to the Find an Aerial Applicator Public Search field.
4. To opt out of the public database, change the setting in the dropdown menu from Opt-In to Opt-Out. (The opt-in/opt-out field for "Find an Aerial Applicator" is only available on Operator, Affiliated Operator and Lifetime Operator Members' accounts.)
5. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click SAVE CHANGES. Any changes to your profile information or account settings will not be recorded unless you click SAVE.
6. Repeat these steps at any time to opt back in to the public database.

In addition to adjusting their "Find an Aerial Applicator" preferences, Operator, Lifetime and Affiliated Operator members may add a company logo or edit the contact information that appears in their search results. If you need help updating your listing, please contact the NAAA office at (202) 546-5722 or information@agaviation.org.

NAAA Joins National Ag Coalition Expressing Concern Over the White House's Reversal of Federal Support of Pesticide Preemption Policy

NAAA joined 54 national and regional agricultural organizations in a letter to President Joe Biden expressing grave concern with his administration's recent change in longstanding federal policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products.

On May 10, Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court advising the Court against hearing a case, arguing that federal pesticide registration and labeling requirements do not preclude states from imposing additional labeling requirements, even if those requirements run counter to federal findings. This position is a stunning reversal from numerous past administrations, Democratic and Republican alike, and poses great risks to our science-based regulatory system and global food systems. The product label at issue in this case involves the herbicide glyphosate. Nearly every pesticide regulatory body in the world, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has conducted robust scientific evaluations of glyphosate and reached the conclusion it is not a carcinogen and can be safely used.

The Solicitor General's brief adopts a position that permits states to mislabel glyphosate—or any pesticide—with cancer warnings despite overwhelming scientific evidence that it does not pose a cancer risk. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the primary statute governing pesticides, is quite clear that “a pesticide is misbranded if its labeling bears any statement ... which is false or misleading in any particular.”

The letter states that:

[This] dangerous reversal in position defies this federal statute, decreases access for farmers and other users to much-needed tools to produce food, fiber, and fuel safely and sustainably, and presents threats to science-based regulation and international trade. ... At a crucial time when American farmers are striving to feed a world threatened by food shortages and insecurity, the likes of which we have not seen in decades, this reversal of policy greatly risks undermining the ability of U.S. agricultural producers to help meet global food needs. This policy also poses significant risks to farmers and other herbicide users for whom these tools are essential to combat climate change and other environmental challenges. With so much at stake, it is vital that we have durable, predictable, science-based policy on this matter that does not fluctuate between administrations. We strongly urge you to withdraw the brief establishing this new policy, fully considering the implications it holds for global food security, environmental sustainability, and the future of science-based regulation.

Read the full letter [here](#).

C-PAASS: 2023 Coming Soon

Exhibitor Details for the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo: Booth Sales for Aircraft & Large Booth Space Now Open

Join us for the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo in the [new location](#) of Knoxville, Tennessee, Dec. 5–8. NAAA Expo attendees and exhibitors will take over several hotels and the convention center in thriving downtown Knoxville, which is full of restaurants featuring great southern cuisine, fun bars and unique shops. Knoxville is also a short drive to the Great Smoky Mountains, which offer excellent [pre and post](#)-Ag Aviation Expo trip ideas.

Because Knoxville is a day's drive for more than half of the U.S., we're expecting a large crowd at this year's Ag Aviation Expo. Exhibiting allows you to get your company, product/service and brand in front of an expected 1,500 attendees. We hope to see you and your company in Knoxville!

The NAAA Trade Show will take place Dec. 6, 12 p.m.–5:30 p.m. and Dec. 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Review the [NAAA Exhibitor Prospectus](#) and [exhibitor webpage](#) for further details, pricing and dates. Click here for a full [schedule of events](#).

Booth Sales for Aircraft & Large Booth Space Now Open: If you plan to bring an aircraft, need a 20'x20'+ island booth, a 10'x30'+ inline booth or plan to be a Diamond or Platinum Sponsor, please contact [Lindsay Barber](#) ASAP to ensure the best placement on the trade show floor.

10'x10' and 10'x20' Booth Space: Booth sales for 10'x10' and 10'x20' spaces will begin on Thursday, July 14, at 12 p.m. ET/11 a.m. CT. All details will be emailed to Allied members and posted [online](#).

Details for the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo

- **Dates:** Dec. 5-8, 2022
- **Location:** Knoxville Convention Center
- **Kickoff Breakfast Speaker:** [Captain Scott Kelly](#), first astronaut to complete year-in-space mission.
- **General Session Speakers:** [Dr. Stan Musick & Michelle Miller](#)
- **Schedule of Events:** See the current, tentative schedule [here](#).
- **Hotel:** Details [here](#).
- **Attendee Registration:** Opens July 1.
- **Exhibitor Booth Sales:** Large booth sales open. 10'x10' and 10'x20' booth sales open on July 14. Please [email Lindsay Barber](#) if you would like to secure a large booth space.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Sponsorships are now available. View the [opportunities online](#). Please [email Lindsay](#) if you would like to secure a sponsorship from last year or would like to be contacted about 2022 opportunities! We have sponsorships available for all budget sizes.
- **Auction Donations:** Thank you to [Pratt & Whitney Canada](#) for donating a PT6-34AG to this year's NAAA Live Auction. While we are still several months away from the Ag Aviation Expo, we are already accepting donations for the [Live and Silent Auction](#). The earlier you inform us of your auction donation, the more advertising you will receive on the NAAA website and in NAAA publications. Support the aerial application industry by donating an item today. [Email Lindsay](#) with your donation details.

Beware of Fraudulent Company Trying to Book Hotel Rooms for NAAA Ag Aviation Expo

NAAA received notification that an independent third-party company called Expo Key Booking is contacting our NAAA Allied members to book sleeping rooms in Knoxville for the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo. This company is NOT associated with NAAA or any hotel in Knoxville; your hotel room should only be booked through the [information we provide](#). Ignore their calls/emails and do not return their calls.

Please remember that no one from (or on behalf of) NAAA or any of the hotels will contact you (phone, email, etc.) to book a hotel room. NAAA recommends that you make your own hotel reservations using the information in our NAAA publications or at AgAviation.org/hotel. Do not trust these companies; they will take your money, and you may not have a hotel room in Knoxville.

The hotels in the NAAA room block for the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo Dec. 5-8 in Knoxville are the Marriott, Tennessean, Hilton, Crowne Plaza and Hyatt Place. Booking details are at AgAviation.org/hotel.

Ag Aviation Expo Sponsorships Available—Boost Your Company's Brand!

Join us for the **2022 Ag Aviation Expo** in Knoxville, Tennessee, Dec. 5-8. Sponsorship sales are open for this year's convention, where we're expecting a large crowd at this new Ag Aviation Expo location. Branding at the Ag Aviation Expo is a great opportunity to get your message in front of the agricultural aviation industry and reach a targeted and nationwide audience of aerial applicators in North America—an audience responsible for applying 28% of crop protection products to commercial cropland in the U.S.

Take advantage of [getting your company name](#) in front of the expected 1,500+ operators, ag pilots and other attendees directly related to the agricultural aviation industry through an Ag Aviation Expo sponsorship.

Six reasons why you should be a sponsor at the 2022 NAAA Ag Aviation Expo:

1. A targeted audience will see your company's name and/or logo.
2. Sponsorship enhances your company's credibility and rapport.
3. You will gain brand awareness and recognition.
4. You will generate new sales and/or leads and potential business partnerships.
5. You can drive attendees to your booth and message through your sponsorship.
6. According to a post-convention survey, 75% of aerial applicators stated that they would be "very likely" to use the products and services of a company that sponsors an event at the Ag Aviation Expo. View [sponsorship opportunities here](#).

By becoming a sponsor, attendees will:

- Remember your company, services and products.
- See you as a supporter of the ag aviation industry.
- Recognize your brand.
- See you as a partner and industry visionary.
- Hold you above others in purchasing decisions.

For more information, contact [Lindsay Barber](#) by email or phone at (202) 546-5722.

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We All Have a Telling History: Use Yours and NAAA's Materials to Broadly Communicate Agricultural Aviation's

By Andrew Moore, NAAA CEO

If you are an active citizen in the world of aerial application, don't be a static audience member during this epic centennial event. Take the stage with us and bring out your inner thespian as we enunciate the gospel of agricultural aviation to the public.

History is not just documenting famous or infamous people, times and events. We all have a history—a story to tell about ourselves that can contribute to the next and future generations' betterment. One could also believe that sharing our history is one of the meanings of life—to improve and evolve our world by sharing the key to living a good life and sharing the hazards and obstacles that may hinder such living.

NAAA has reached the climax in the centennial epic of sharing our industry's history to the public, which of course was Aug. 3, 2021. But just because the official centennial anniversary date is behind us doesn't mean all efforts to share the importance of our industry to the public have passed you by. We will be celebrating the centennial of agricultural aviation for an entire year. We continue to reach out to policymakers, our brethren in the fields of agriculture and aviation, to the trade press, to the public and to the national news media. We continue to share our history of improving the cultivation of food, fiber and bioenergy consumed globally and how we've learned from harrowing experiences and evolved technologically to fine-tune our craft, use less product to cover more acres and better care for Mother Earth. We are continuing to use all types of media to educate the public—three different length video documentaries, a comprehensive book of our history, social, print, trade and news media releases and a special website, [AgAviation100.com](https://www.agaviation100.com), to share the 10-decade story of ag aviation and we will continue to do so through July of 2022.

If you are an active citizen in the world of aerial application—whether an operator, pilot, crew member, service-parts-equipment provider or related tangentially to the industry in another way—don't be a static audience member during this epic, year-long centennial event. Take the stage with us as we enunciate the gospel of agricultural aviation to the public. Inform your local television stations, newspapers and radio stations about the industry's 100th anniversary, even if it is by simply directing them to [AgAviation100.com](https://www.agaviation100.com). On that site, there is a "Get Involved" tab with a draft press release about the 100th that discusses the importance of the industry, its progressive evolution, and directs readers to [AgAviation100.com](https://www.agaviation100.com) to learn more. Feel free to cater that press release to your own operation and experience and send it to your local news outlets.

You can also brush up on the ag aviation script about the importance of ag aviation, environmental safeguards that are common practice today and other industry talking points on NAAA's media relations kit webpage that may be found [here](#).

The media relations kit also includes suggestions on how to best communicate to the media and public when espousing ag aviation's significance. If you don't feel comfortable communicating directly, no worries. NAAA staff and an assortment of ag aviation ambassadors can be used as understudies and take over that role, but do make sure the public and news media in your area are informed of our centennial milestone to maximize the value of this pivotal once-in-a-lifetime event.

Don't forget, we all have a great story to tell about this industry. Whether it is how one got into the industry; the training to fine-tune ag aircraft and the application equipment; how ag aviation provides to local employment and the local economy; or how after five generations, our technology and experience are such that we produce more per acre, showing that our care for the environment continues to progress—all of these anecdotes are both important and fascinating to public audiences.

It's up to us all to tell the story to continue this industry's remarkable legacy. And again, just because the official anniversary date has occurred, our centennial lasts a year and you can still contribute plenty. Please join the ag aviation cast for this once-in-a-100-year performance that is leading to glowing public reviews and will continue to do so throughout the year.

NAAA Releases Book of the Century! Buy It Today

NAAA has released the book of the century—a century of agricultural aviation, that is.

One hundred years ago, an aerial crop dusting experiment spawned the birth of the agricultural aviation industry. To commemorate agricultural aviation's 100th anniversary, NAAA is pleased to present *Agriculture's Air Force: 100 Years of Aerial Application*.

Agriculture's Air Force provides a new, updated account of aerial application's history, 35 years after Mabry Anderson's masterpiece, *Low & Slow: An Insider's History of Agricultural Aviation*, was published. NAAA's meticulously sourced book is based on a collective history of the agricultural aviation industry based on material from *Agricultural Aviation* magazine, *AgAir Update*, *Low & Slow* and other resources.

Beginning with *Agricultural Aviation's Spring 2021 issue*, NAAA published excerpts from *Agriculture's Air Force* and continued to do so through the *Fall 2021 issue*. Those stories are just a small slice of what's in the 268-page hardback edition, however. The complete book contains so much more.

Agriculture's Air Force delves into the intersection of agriculture and aviation. It chronicles the agricultural aviation industry's growth from its infancy in 1921 through the boom times after World War II and on to today's modern era of high-tech aerial application.

The finished hardback book has been years in the making but well worth the effort. "This is a significant piece of work covering not just the industry's history, but its essence," NAAA CEO Andrew Moore said. "We are proud of it and believe it will make a lasting contribution to the industry."

The story of agricultural aviation is much like the broader story of aviation: It is mostly punctuated with interesting smaller moments sandwiched between milestone developments. Aerial application is also the story of technological leaps and bounds.

Agriculture's Air Force covers five eras spanning more than 10 decades. In addition, it features 34 Spotlight pieces focused on significant individuals, organizations, trends, technologies and topics related to aerial application.

Agriculture's Air Force: 100 Years of Aerial Application may well be NAAA's most enduring 100th anniversary initiative. One thing's for sure: It is no textbook. The commemorative book is written from a fresh perspective that is entertaining and enlightening. Readers will come away with a new appreciation for agricultural aviation as a profession and the dedicated individuals who propel it forward.

Order Your Copy of Agriculture's Air Force Today!

Agriculture's Air Force retails for \$45, excluding shipping. Order it from [AgAir Update's Online Store](#).