

# NAAA eNewsletter

## G100 Unleaded Avgas Approved!

Last week, General Aviation Modification Inc.'s (GAMI) 100 octane unleaded avgas, G100UL, received complete approval for the use of its fuel in all spark ignition piston engines in the FAA's type certificate database and every airframe powered by those engines. This includes both low- and high-compression engines used in agricultural aviation, such as the P&W 1340, and horizontally opposed engines used in Cessna and Piper agricultural aircraft and several helicopter models.

Any qualified refiner or blender of fuel may be licensed to produce this fuel. Ann Arbor, Michigan-based fuel supplier Avfuel is standing by to manage the logistics and distribution of G100UL. Initially, G100 is expected to be more expensive than current 100LL avgas, but the price should come down as sales volume increases. In addition, an unleaded avgas will potentially cause fewer maintenance issues, spark plugs should remain clean, and oil changes can be extended.

In a podcast, GAMI co-founder George Braly said that they have been working on this project since 2009 and had the current formula developed and tested six years ago. The last six years have been spent dealing with the FAA. Braly also said that the blending process is simple, and any competent refiner or blender will be able to produce G100UL. To listen to Braly's podcast, click [here](#).

Braly did not provide a timeline for when the fuel would be readily available nationwide but did say they plan on starting deliveries in California, where some airports have banned the use of leaded avgas. G100UL is a "drop-in" fuel that does not require any changes to the airframe or engine. It is completely fungible with 100LL in any concentration. An STC will have to be obtained by aircraft owners to use G100. How the STCs will be managed was not addressed.

The issue of lead in aviation gasoline has been of great concern to the aviation industry. It became a greater concern this year as the EPA has said it will be issuing a proposed endangerment finding in 2022. That has not happened yet, but if it does, leaded avgas could be banned within a couple of years.

Swift Fuels LLC has an approved unleaded avgas for low-compression engines (UL94) and is working on an unleaded fuel for high-compression engines. In addition to G100 and UL94, at least two other fuels are reported to be in the development stage.

NAAA is an Avgas Coalition member and has remained insistent that any unleaded fuel must have the same safety performance as leaded fuel. It does appear that G100 fits that requirement. To read the news release, click [here](#).

## Aspen Ag Helicopters Shines at Ventura County Fair

Last month NAAA operator member Rob Scherzinger's company, Aspen Ag Helicopters, spent nearly two weeks exhibiting at the Ventura County Fair in Ventura, California. The Ventura County Fair returned Aug. 3-14 after a two-year absence due to pandemic cancellations in 2020 and '21.

Aspen Ag Helicopters, which is based in Oxnard in Ventura County, has been a longtime supporter of the county fair. The company has bought FFA and Grange Youth animals at the fair's junior livestock auction. Aspen Helicopters' families also have entered jellies and jams, baked goods and quilts in various food and fiber contests, Scherzinger said. This year, for the first time, Aspen Helicopters decided to put one of its aerial application helicopters on a static display in the fair's Agriculture & Natural Resources Building. The department's mission is to entertain and educate the community about Ventura County agriculture.

Scherzinger contacted NAAA and the California Agricultural Aircraft Association (CAAA) in search of supporting materials for Aspen Helicopter's display. "We got some little glider kits from CAAA to hand out to the kids along with the NAAA brochures 'Flying For your Food,' 'The Search for the Next Generation of Ag Pilots Is On' and 'Fly Into Your Future.'"

Between the helicopter display, the helpful handouts and meaningful interactions with members of the community, the nearly two-week event was well worth it to Scherzinger and his employees.

"It was a big hit with a lot of people," Scherzinger said. "It ran for 12 days. We flew the helicopter to the fairgrounds two days before it opened and landed in the middle of the carnival rides. We had a lot of security there to help make it safe. Then our maintenance crew put ground handling wheels on the ship and we pushed it into the big ag building for its new home for the next two weeks. We ran four videos of various crop spraying loops. They ran from 12 noon to 9:30 p.m. every night."

"The fair superintendents were very happy" with the Aspen Helicopters display, Scherzinger said. "Participation was expectedly low this year. This was the first fair in three years due to COVID. Some of the big tractors and farms weren't here, but we are expecting them next year. We won the ag superintendents' award and a Blue ribbon for 'Best Feature' exhibit. We feel good about it."

Scherzinger adds, “The main reason I wanted to do this was to reach out to our local community and let people know that ‘us ag pilots are normal guys.’ We are not barnstorming hotrodders.”

Well done, Rob—mission accomplished!

## Act Fast! NAAA Award Nominations Due Friday, Sept. 9

*Use NAAA’s easy online awards form to submit a 2022 nomination!*

*Eight recipients received NAAA Awards in 2021. Who will be among this year’s awardees? Nominations are due Friday, Sept. 9.*

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One of the highlights of each NAAA convention is the chance to honor a distinct group of the committed individuals and companies for their service to the agricultural aviation industry. The aerial application industry is filled with exceptional people who go above and beyond the call of duty, often with little fanfare. Make someone’s day, year or career by nominating him or her for a 2022 NAAA Award! There’s no time to wait—Friday is the last day to get nominations in for this year’s awards.

There are nine NAAA Award categories and one NAAREF Award, but again, the nomination deadline is only a day away—Sept. 9—so act now!

NAAA’s online submission form is the fastest and simplest way to nominate someone in just a few clicks, but the traditional PDF-based awards forms are also available options. The following submission methods are available at [AgAviation.org/awards](https://www.agaviation.org/awards).

- [2022 Awards Nomination Online Submission Form](#) (recommended)
- [2022 Award Nomination Form](#) (Fillable PDF)
- [2022 Award Nomination Form](#) (print version)

Completed entries using the traditional PDF forms may be emailed or faxed to NAAA at [information@agaviation.org](mailto:information@agaviation.org) or (202) 546-5726 (fax).

After you make your nomination, [register](#) for the Ag Aviation Expo and plan to join us as we honor the award recipients Thursday, Dec. 8.

## NAAA Award Categories

**Agrinaut Award:** Honors an agricultural aircraft operator, operating organization or allied member company that has made an outstanding contribution in the field of ag aircraft operations. The achievement cited shall have contributed to the “state-of-the-art” for the benefit of the agricultural aircraft industry as a whole.

**Allied Industry Individual Award:** Recognizes an NAAA member or staff and/or an allied industry individual who has significantly contributed their efforts for the benefit of the allied industry and the aerial application industry. *(Presented by the NAAA Allied Industry Committee.)*

**Delta Air Lines “Puffer” Award:** Recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the design of agricultural aircraft and/or related equipment.

**Evans-Christopher Operation S.A.F.E. Award:** Recognizes individuals or entities that have made outstanding contributions to the Operation S.A.F.E. program. *(Presented by NAAREF.)*

**John Robert Horne Memorial Award:** Honors a pilot with five or fewer years of experience in the agricultural aviation industry who has an exemplary safety record and has contributed to safety in ag aviation. *This award no longer has carryover nominations from year to year; a new nomination must be submitted every year.*

**Larsen-Miller Community Service Award:** Recognizes outstanding contributions by a member to his or her community.

**Opal and Bill Binnion Memorial Award:** Acknowledges those who contribute to NAAA in its efforts to educate the public about aerial application.

**Richard “Dick” Reade Memorial Award:** Recognizes outstanding contributions by an allied industry member and their company.

**William O. Marsh Safety Award:** Recognizes significant achievements in safety, safety education or an outstanding operational safety program.

**Zoren and Joan O’Brien Memorial Outstanding Service Award:** Awards outstanding service to the commercial agricultural aviation industry or to its association.

The 2022 NAAA Award recipients will be announced in the fall and honored at the Excellence in Ag Aviation Banquet Dec. 8 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

## 2022 Support Scholarship Contest Entries Due Sept. 15

Attention, higher-education students: Don't pass up the opportunity to vie for a combined \$3,000 in educational scholarships. NAAA is accepting submissions for the [2022 Support Scholarship Media Contest](#) through Sept. 15. Prizes include a \$2,000 scholarship from the NAAA Support Committee and a \$1,000 scholarship, courtesy of Covington Aircraft.

As it was in 2021, the theme for this year's contest is "[What role does ag aviation play in producing a local commodity?](#)"

The 2022 Support Scholarship Media Contest is open to any individual who is sponsored by an NAAA member. The scholarship is not restricted to individuals pursuing a "flying career" and can be used toward any educational pursuit beyond high school (at any age).

Entrants must be a senior in high school or registered in higher education by the fall semester of 2022. Previous winners are not eligible to compete. Contestants have the choice of submitting an essay of at least 1,500 words or a video or PowerPoint presentation at least five minutes long.

Submissions should be sent as an email attachment by Sept. 15 to [information@agaviation.org](mailto:information@agaviation.org). More information about eligibility requirements, contest guidelines and sample essays from past scholarship recipients are available [here](#).

## NAAA-NAAREF Board Meetings Oct. 7-8 in Oklahoma City

*Hilton Oklahoma City hotel room block closes Saturday, Sept. 10*

The October 2022 NAAA & NAAREF Board and Committee meetings will take place Oct. 7-8 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Some meetings begin Thursday, Oct. 6, and PAASS Train the Trainer will take place Oct. 5-6. [Click here](#) to view a schedule.

Please note: All board books will now be provided electronically. Board and Committee members will receive a link and directions to download the electronic board book approximately one week before the meetings. The board book can be downloaded to your computer, tablet or you can print your committee items.

All meetings are open to NAAA members. If you are not a board or committee member but you're interested in attending, please contact [Lindsay Barber](#) for more details.

## Hotel Details

Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City  
One Park Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
Hotel Phone: (405) 272-3040

- Reservations: [Click here](#) or call 800-4HONORS and refer to NAAA/NAAREF committee meetings.
- Room Rate: \$149/night
- Room Block Closes: Sept. 10, 2022

## Register & Book Your Travel to Knoxville for the Ag Aviation Expo

The 2022 Ag Aviation Expo will be here before you know it from Dec. 5–8, so it's time to start thinking about registration and your travel to Knoxville. [Attendee registration](#) and [booth sales](#) are open! You'll hear from Captain Scott Kelly, the history-making NASA astronaut who spent one year in space, at the Monday [Kickoff Breakfast](#). At Tuesday's [General Session](#), you'll hear from Dr. Stan Musick and Michelle Miller, the Farm Babe.

If you're looking to grow your business, find a job or sell a product or service in the aerial application industry, the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo is the place for you! Our expo has everything from a world-class trade show floor featuring aircraft and helicopters to education sessions, expert speakers and many networking opportunities!

Knoxville is located at the intersection of I-75 and I-40, just a day's drive from more than half of the U.S. [McGhee Tyson Airport \(TYS\)](#) offers more than 20 direct flights. Flying your own aircraft? Check out [Knoxville Downtown Island Airport \(DKX\)](#).

As you search your airfare options into Knoxville for the Ag Aviation Expo, visit NAAA's Transportation Discount webpage at [AgAviation.org/transportation](http://AgAviation.org/transportation) and explore tickets on American, Delta and United Airlines.

Knoxville is centrally located for those in the eastern U.S. who would like to drive. *Contact your [hotel](#) for parking details. Book your hotel room [online](#).*

- Atlanta, GA: 192 miles

- Birmingham, AL: 252 miles
- Charlotte, NC: 215 miles
- Cincinnati, OH: 248 miles
- Louisville, KY: 238 miles
- Memphis, TN: 388 miles
- Nashville, TN: 178 miles
- Raleigh, NC: 333 miles
- Richmond, VA: 420 miles

## Low-Time Pilot Registration

If you are an ag pilot with less than five years of experience or are interested in becoming an ag pilot, we are offering a special price to attend the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo for pilots like you. Further details are available [here](#) (scroll down to the *Low-Time Pilot Registration* section).

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- Dates: Dec. 5-8, 2022
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- General Session Speakers: [Dr. Stan Musick & Michelle Miller](#)
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- Sponsorship Opportunities: Sponsorships are now available. View the [opportunities here](#). 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 engine to this year's NAAA Live Auction. While we are still a few 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.

## NAAA CEO Discusses Aerial Application Trends with Farm Journal Media

NAAA CEO Andrew Moore identified five trends that will bolster and/or affect the aerial application industry in some respects as it embarks on its second century of operations. The observations emerged during a wide-ranging interview with Margy Eckelkamp, the editor of *The Scoop*, a Farm Journal magazine. Eckelkamp distilled those trends into a listicle article on [“5 Trends Carrying the \[Ag Aviation\] Industry Forward”](#) that was featured across Farm Journal Media’s digital platforms.

Eckelkamp’s “5 Trends” article appeared on [AgWeb.com](#) on Aug. 25. The article was also teased in the AgWeb AM and The Daily Scoop newsletters on Monday, Aug. 29. AgWeb AM has an audience of 140,000 mostly grower subscribers. The Daily Scoop delivers agronomic and business news to about 30,000 subscribers, primarily ag retailers, distributors, crop consultants and farm managers.

In terms of specific trends Moore cited, on the positive side, he said the demand for aerial application is increasing. Furthermore, aerial application is part of the “Climate Smart Agriculture” movement. Finally, while the ag aviation industry may be 100-plus years old, it continues to adapt and is a technology leader.

Moore also cited two ongoing challenges (and key policy priorities for NAAA). First, Moore stressed that the No. 1 priority for the association is working toward product availability for aerial applicators. Second, low-altitude obstacles remain a persistent safety risk for ag aviators.

To learn more about the trends carrying the ag aviation industry forward, continue reading [here](#).

## NAAA Augments its Policy, Education and Safety Services with Hiring of Matt Gill

With an influx of more rigid federal policies forthcoming from the federal government pertaining to pesticide use and climate change, coupled with NAAA establishing a voluntary professional aerial application certification program designed to further mitigate accidents and augment aerial application professionalism, the association has hired Matt Gill from the University of Illinois.

Gill received his graduate degree at the University of Illinois in agricultural engineering and has worked as an extension specialist in agricultural technology at the university's Department of Agriculture and Biological Engineering for several years. He is a familiar face in the aerial application industry, having worked as an Operation S.A.F.E. aircraft application efficacy analyst for years. He also is the chairman of the [NAAREF Operation S.A.F.E. Committee](#) and will be the recipient of this year's [Evans-Christopher Operation S.A.F.E. Award](#), which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Operation S.A.F.E. program.

Gill will serve as NAAA's manager of education, safety and policy starting Oct. 1. He will serve again under his former supervisor at the University of Illinois, Dr. Scott Bretthauer, whose title will now be director of policy, education and safety. NAAA CEO Andrew Moore said about the NAAA staff strengthening, "With the current administration taking a more aggressive approach toward the regulation of pesticides and the environment, and NAAA establishing its professional certification program, [C-PAASS](#), next year to reward participation in education programs proven to mitigate accidents and improve application efficacy, now is the time to buttress staff with knowledgeable individuals. We welcome Matt Gill on board the NAAA team to help us do just that."

*Matt Gill (right) will start with NAAA on Oct. 1 as manager of education, safety and policy and will serve again under his former Univ. of Illinois supervisor, Dr. Scott (Gilligan) Bretthauer (left).*

## [NAAA Member Operation Garrett Flying Service Featured on RFD-TV's 'Market Day Report'](#)

NAAA members Will and Bob Garrett of Garrett Flying Service in Danbury, Texas, along with pilot and fellow member Andy Christian, were featured by Tammi Arender on RFD-TV's *Market Day Report* on Aug. 30.

Rice is Garrett Flying Service's predominant crop, and Will Garrett and Christian treat thousands of acres in Texas each year. "It's a great life," Christian said on camera. "You can't ask for anything else [but] to come to work, go do a job and help raise crops ... and know you contributed something at the end of the day to help people out."

During a voiceover, Arender, a *Market Day Report* correspondent and anchor, said, "Ag aviators are crucial to food and fiber production. These pilots are often referred to as crop doctors. They help farmers fight pests, weeds and infertility. And while increasing yields for farmers is the goal, safety is their priority."

Watch the complete segment [here](#) or by clicking on the photo at the beginning of this article.

NAAA applauds Garrett Flying Service for being positive spokespersons for their company and the agricultural aviation industry.

## [2022 Ag Aviation Golf Tournament Oct. 15-16](#)

NAAA members are invited to join your Arkansas brethren for a fun weekend of golf and fellowship Oct. 15-16. The [Red Apple Inn and Country Club](#) in Heber Springs, Arkansas, is hosting the [2022 Ag Aviation Golf Tournament](#).

The \$175 entry fee covers two rounds of golf, happy hour and dinner at the Red Apple Inn and Country Club on Saturday evening. (A dinner-only fee of \$45 is available for non-golfers.) The tournament starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, with a two-person scramble format. The final round tees off Sunday, Oct. 16, with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Inn rooms and two-bedroom condos are available at the Red Apple Inn for \$150 and \$235/night, respectively. Call the Red Apple Inn at 1-800-733-2775 and use the reservation code "AG AVIATION" to reserve your room.

To register for the 2022 Ag Aviation Golf Tournament, please complete the [player registration form](#) and mail it with a check payable to "Ag Aviation Golf Tournament" to:

Brenda Watts  
120 Norris Lane  
Watson, AR 71674  
(870) 377-5241

Sponsorship opportunities are also available, including placing your name on a tee box or banner. Please refer to the [sponsorship registration form](#) for more information.

A small group of Arkansas aerial applicators organizes the annual golf tournament. Each year the organizers donate the tournament's proceeds to a different organization of their choosing. Proceeds from the 2022 tournament will be donated to St. Jude Hospital. For more information, please contact the 2022 Ag Aviation Golf Tournament organizers. Contact information for members of the tournament committee is available [here](#).

## [NAAA Membership Renewal Open for 2023](#)

Thank you for your support of NAAA as a 2022 member. We hope and request to have your continued support by [renewing your NAAA membership](#) for 2023. NAAA continues to passionately advocate on behalf of ag aviation and raise awareness about its benefits to the public and national policymakers, which we capitalized on across policy and all media channels during the 100th anniversary of the industry. The public relations campaign promoting the [100th anniversary](#) delivered positive and far-reaching media coverage about the agricultural aviation industry that netted nearly 200 media mentions nationwide to highly circulated news outlets with a potential audience reach of 400 million consumers.

This positive coverage of the industry and its importance to global food, fiber and bioenergy production comes at a crucial time as NAAA fights to preserve the aerial use of pesticides targeted for cancellation or unnecessary and burdensome restrictions under current EPA leadership. It takes your membership resources to save these aerial uses and positively represent the industry before the public.

As the industry moves into its second century, NAAA and NAAREF have developed a way to augment industry advancement of safety and application accuracy while showing your customers, regulators, insurers, pesticide manufacturers and the public the professional nature of the industry. Our new [Certified-Professional Aerial Applicator Safety Steward \(C-PAASS\)](#) program, launching in 2023, will fill that very role for those who want to participate. We know education works to reduce accidents and drift occurrences based on PAASS Program stats. Since the first PAASS season in 1998-1999, the ag aviation accident rate (number of accidents per 100,000 hours flown) has dropped nearly 26%, and the fatal accident rate has fallen 10%.

The impetus for developing C-PAASS was to expand and gain recognition for maximizing professionalism by ultimately receiving additional benefits for being certified, such as insurance discounts and more flexibility pertaining to pesticide label language, and for ag pilots to market to their customers that they have undergone additional training and development to best ensure that they can provide high-quality service.

Please make it a priority to [renew your NAAA membership](#)—the payoff far exceeds what you will spend in dues in the form of effective advocacy that reduces regulation and taxes affecting your aerial application business. Trade association membership dues are tax deductible.

## Thank You, NAAA Ag Aviation Expo Sponsors! Attendees, Register Today!

[Attendee registration](#) and [booth sales](#) are now open! NAAA sincerely appreciates the companies that support NAAA and the agricultural aviation industry by sponsoring the [2022 Ag Aviation Expo](#) in Knoxville, Tennessee, Dec. 5-8. We have been fortunate over the years to be able to count on many of our Allied Industry members to sponsor a convention program, activity or item that benefits attendees. We appreciate them taking advantage of the opportunity to reach thousands of potential customers in the agricultural aviation industry. More opportunities to participate in the auction and to sponsor are listed below.

Sponsoring companies help ensure the success of our annual Ag Aviation Expo, and we still have many opportunities [available](#)! Seventy-five percent of attendees surveyed in a post-convention survey stated they would be “very likely” to use the products and services of a company that sponsors the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo.

## Thank you to our 2022 Ag Aviation Expo sponsors:

- Diamond Sponsors: BASF, Corteva Agriscience, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Syngenta, UPL North America
- Platinum Sponsor: Transland
- Gold Sponsors: Ag-Nav, AgriSmart Information Systems/Flight Plan Online, Air Tractor, Covington Aircraft, GarrCo Products, Insero, Starr Insurance Companies, Wilbur-Ellis
- Silver Sponsors: Aeris Insurance Solutions, AgAir Update, AIG, AssuredPartners, CapstanAG, Chuck Holzwarth Flying Service, Davidson Solid Rock Insurance, FMC, Kimmel Aviation Insurance Agency, Lane Aviation, North Star Aviation Inc., Old Republic Aerospace, Packer & Associates, Perfect Flight App, Southeastern Aircraft Sales & Service, Star-Flex, Turbine Conversions, US Specialty Insurance Company/Tokio Marine HCC
- Bronze Sponsors: Hancock Enterprises, Praxidyn

We know that sponsoring companies have the opportunity to support many organizations, and we appreciate their support of NAAA! We still have sponsorships available for this year's Ag Aviation Expo. Learn more about sponsorship [here](#) or contact [Lindsay Barber](#) at (202) 546-5722.

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## NAAA Addresses Spate of Recent Fatal Ag Accidents and the Industry's Upcoming Professional Certification Program Designed to Address it with Aviation Week

When four fatal ag aviation accidents occurred over an 11-day stretch from July 23 to Aug. 2, the agricultural aviation community wasn't the only one to sit up and take notice. The spate of fatal accidents has also gotten the attention of the FAA and the media.

NAAA made that abundantly clear to operators and pilots in its [Aug. 15 Fly Safe Message](#), which stated, "NAAA received direct communications from senior level managers at the FAA last week inquiring, on behalf of the FAA Administrator, about the recent spate of fatal ag aviation accidents and asking how the FAA can help. NAAA also fielded calls about the recent accidents from its general aviation coalition partners and from local and national aviation press outlets— from Aero News Network to Aviation Week—that highlighted in their news reports the recent number of fatal accidents."

"[Ag Plane Crashes Draw FAA Attention](#)," an *Aviation Week* headline declared for an article that came out Aug. 22. NAAA CEO Andrew Moore was interviewed for the piece, which is available behind a subscription paywall on *Aviation Week's* website.

The article's lead stated that the series of fatal ag accidents "served as a grim reminder of the dangers of low-level flying during the industry's busiest season." Noting that as of mid-August, there had been eight fatal ag accidents in 2022, including the four recent fatalities over 11 days, *Aviation Week* wrote, "While alarming, the toll is not unusual: ag aircraft crash at a steady rate during the summer peak season ..."

Moore said that mid-July to mid-August is "the time of the year when we are most active," and pointed out that NAAA is launching its new Certified-Professional Aerial Applicator Safety Steward (C-PAASS) program in 2023. "We won't be satisfied until there are no fatal accidents—we're committed to that," Moore also said.

*Aviation Week's* report continued by sketching out preliminary details for the four fatal ag accidents that occurred in late July and early August before closing by referencing information NAAA conveyed to ag pilots in its Aug. 15 Fly Safe Message. *Aviation Week* cited the following passage:

While we don't have final reports with causes from the NTSB for any of these accidents, we do know that each of these fatal accidents caused tremendous grief and loss for eight families. ... Your customer may be demanding you need to treat their field, but they don't need you as much as your loved ones do. If you aren't comfortable flying in the current weather conditions or are worried about how many wires are in and around a field, postpone or turn the job down.

Fly Safe's takeaway message? "Fly safe for the remainder of the season and your career."

## Ag Aviation Industry Mourns the Loss of Billy Ray Kent

On Aug. 19, Billy Ray Kent became the ninth ag aviator lost in the 2022 season. The members and staff of NAAA offer their sympathies and condolences to Billy's family and friends. Born on May 16, 1952, he was 70 years old at the time of his passing.

Billy graduated from West Tallahatchie High School and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Sumner, Mississippi. He began flying in 1974 and was the chief pilot at the operation he flew for in Tallahatchie County, which he had been with since 1985. Billy was also a talented musician who was accomplished with multiple instruments.

Billy is survived by his wife Angie Hawkins Kent and her son, Jamie Mangum; his two daughters, Rayanne Hollis (Van) and their two sons, Kent and Burnham Hollis; and his second daughter Lena Kay Koenig (Nick) and their son, Malone Koenig; his mother, Doris Kent; his twin sister Faye Gullette; his little sister Lessie Kent. He also leaves behind his former wife and the mother of his children, Becky Gourlay.

Billy's memorial service was held Aug. 28 in Sumner, Mississippi. [Meredith-Nowell Funeral Home](#) was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Super Hunt: Deer Hunts for Youth with Disabilities ([southernoutdoorsunlimited.org](#)) or CARES Animal Shelter (P.O. Box 142, Clarksdale, MS 38614).

Please keep Billy's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

## EPA Extends States Certification of Pesticide Applicators Under Pre-2017 Rules, Modified Aerial-Specific Certification Required After That Time

The U.S. EPA has issued a final rule extending the expiration deadline until Nov. 4, 2023, for states, tribes and federal agencies with existing pesticide applicator certification plans. Once this date passes, only authorities with EPA-approved modified certification plans can continue to certify applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs). In 2017, the EPA updated its commercial pesticide certification regulations, setting stronger standards for people who apply RUPs. This included certifying authorities to require those seeking aerial commercial pesticide application licenses to be trained and/or tested on curriculum specific to aerial application. Under FIFRA, authorities are required to have an EPA-approved certification plan to certify applicators of RUPs. Of the nation's 68 certification programs, the EPA has reviewed all proposed modified plans and has approved seven plans. The final rule and progress of state plan approvals can be found [here](#).

## Proposed AD to Supersede Current Tailboom ADs on Bell 407 Helicopters

The FAA proposes to supersede Airworthiness Directive (AD) 99-23-18, AD 2005-03-07, AD 2013-12-07 and AD 2014-04-07, which apply to certain Bell Helicopter Model 407 helicopter tailbooms.

AD 99-23-18 requires revising the life limits for certain parts, replacing each part that has exceeded its life limit and revising the Airworthiness Limitation Section (ALS) of the existing maintenance manual. AD 2005-03-07 requires establishing a maximum accumulated Retirement Index Number (RIN) count for certain crosstube assemblies and revising the ALS of the existing maintenance manual. AD 2013-12-07 requires inspecting the tailboom assembly for a crack, loose rivet, or other damage and, depending on the inspection results, replacing certain parts. AD 2014-04-07 requires preflight checking, repetitively inspecting for a crack in certain tailbooms, modifying and re-identifying certain tailbooms, installing an improved horizontal stabilizer assembly, and revising the ALS of the existing maintenance manual.

Since the FAA first issued those ADs, a report was received of a crack on the tailboom lower skin due to fatigue damage and new and more restrictive airworthiness limitations have been issued. The FAA is accepting comments on the proposal until Sept. 29. To read the complete proposal or to comment, click [here](#).

## 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](#).