For Immediate Release
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National Agricultural Aviation Association Celebrates 60 Years of Advocating for Agricultural Aviation

ALEXANDRIA, VA – November 23, 2026 – The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) will proudly celebrate its 60th anniversary on November 28, 2026, marking six decades of dedicated advocacy, industry advancement and unwavering support for the agricultural aviation professionals who help feed, fuel and protect America.

Founded in 1966, NAAA has grown into the leading national voice for the agricultural aviation industry, representing aerial application operators, pilots and businesses that provide essential services to the industry and American agriculture. For 60 years, the association has worked to protect the industry's freedom to operate, promote safety and professionalism, advance precision technologies and ensure agricultural aviation has a strong voice in Washington, D.C.

From defending aerial applicators' access to essential crop protection products to advocating for safe airspace as unmanned aircraft operations expand, NAAA has remained at the forefront of issues affecting the industry's future. The association's work with Congress, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies has helped ensure that the unique needs and contributions of agricultural aviation are recognized in decisions affecting American agriculture.

Beyond advocacy, NAAA, along with its sister foundation, the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation (NAAREF), has strengthened the industry through education, research, safety initiatives and professional development. Programs such as the Professional Aerial Applicator Support System (PAASS), along with the association's annual Ag Aviation Expo, reflect its longstanding commitment to improving safety, sharing knowledge, fostering innovation and bringing the agricultural aviation community together.

"For 60 years, NAAA has been built on the dedication of the founders who believed in this industry and understood the importance of standing together," stated NAAA 2026 President Matt Woolard. "Our association has accomplished so much because generations of members have stepped forward to protect and strengthen agricultural aviation. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor those who came before us and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the next generation of aerial applicators has the same opportunities to succeed."

At the heart of NAAA's success is its membership, a community of professionals united by a shared commitment to agricultural aviation and one another. Across generations, members have contributed their time, expertise and resources to strengthen the association and advance the industry. Their dedication has helped transform individual voices into a powerful, collective force for agricultural aviation.

As NAAA celebrates this milestone, it also looks toward the future. With emerging technologies, precision application, evolving regulations and increasing demands for agricultural production, the association's mission remains as important today as it was in 1966. Sixty years strong, NAAA remains committed to ensuring agricultural aviation continues to thrive for generations to come.

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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.