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THE

Voice

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NATA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE: SOPHIA TALERO

With the induction of aviation into the agricultural field, greater crop yields have been seen, and time has been saved. Aviation plays an important role in producing a local commodity by being a vital role in the process of crop production. Small business owners of aviation provide a great service to local farmers, by delivering fertilizers and other products to their crops in a time-sensitive and uniform manner. Without agricultural aviation, farm ground would not be able to maximize the amount of crop grown and yield each year. Introducing planes into the growing process ensures greater amounts of food and resources to communities and the world. The importance of agriculture, and furthermore agricultural aviation, is sometimes overlooked by society. Without it though, the local economy would not thrive the way it does presently. The idea of agricultural aviation first came about in 1921 when an experiment in Ohio attempted to eliminate the sphinx moth larvae that were killing catalpa trees. It spread dust over the trees to kill the larvae which was then known as “crop dusting”. Since then, the industry has sustained many adaptations and growth periods, to arrive at the place it is today.

Agricultural aviation helps stimulate the local economy with increased production of local commodities. The production of these exports including food and resources such as corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, timber and biofuel ingredients have come to have great dependence on farming aircraft. When farmers utilize aviation for crop production, they are able to cultivate enhanced efficiency. Using airplanes in agriculture is helpful because it is a non-invasive form of fertilization and pesticide application. It allows farmers to enter the field at any point in the growing process to meet the needs of the plants more effectively. When tractors or other ground machinery such as sprayers are used for fertilization processes, the total crop yield may go down, due to plants getting run over. Additionally, it is more difficult to apply fertilizer to the entire field uniformly. By using aircraft, farmers can reach every seed without damaging any, while also completing the process quickly. Airplanes can also play a huge role in dropping seed for farmers while one crop is still growing. This is known as a cover crop. Due to short growing seasons in some geographic parts of the country, cover crops are vital to soil health and time effectiveness in growing and harvesting crops. They help to replenish nutrients to the soil, ward off diseases, and slow erosion. This leads to better crops and an overall better harvest.

The introduction of aviation into the agricultural field has seen an increasingly positive effect. It has allowed the production of local commodities to increase, by generating greater crop yields with better quality. The utilization of agricultural aviation allows farmers to create a more efficient and effective process in the generation of commodities which are important to stimulate the economy and provide food and resources for the world.

THE NATA VOICE

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521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 — Phone: 531-289-8323, Email: taylor@youraam.com

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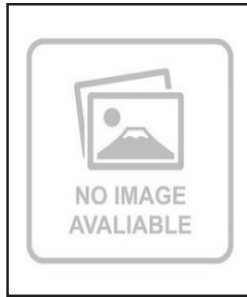
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NATA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE: ANDREW MATSON

What Role Does Ag Aviation Play in Producing A Local Commodity?

My first thought upon seeing this year's theme for the NATA essay contest was: I wonder what they mean by "commodity"? So I, like many others, looked for a definition. The dictionary states that a commodity is something of value, usually an agricultural product.

In my local area the most produced commodities are corn, wheat, and soybeans. Other crops, to a lesser degree, include: alfalfa, sunflowers, popcorn and potatoes. In producing those local commodities, the grower faces many challenges including: weeds, insects, fungus, fertility needs, and weather. That is where agricultural aviation comes in! With the exception of weather, the aerial applicator can help face each of these challenges.

The annual crop year normally begins with weed control. A spray plane is able to make applications of herbicides developed specifically for individual crops in a timely and efficient manner. During rainy springs, the airplane leaves no tracks in a field while providing uniform coverage. Some growers feel that herbicides from an airplane do a better job controlling weeds because the chemicals are usually less diluted than traditional ground applications methods.

Insects can be a tremendous challenge to a producer, causing major damage and hurting the yields and bottom lines of the growers. Timely application of insecticides is important and that again is where an airplane is invaluable. Insects, like weeds, can present differently from year to year depending upon factors such as weather and resistance; and the aerial applicator stays up to date on chemicals that will work best in different circumstances. This is due to training provided by NATA and other sources throughout the year.

The fairly recent development of fungicides has added a new weapon in the fight against crop diseases such as blight and provide overall crop health benefits that boost yields. Many studies have indicated that fungicide applications are most effective when done aurally thereby adding bushels and value to that local commodity.

Fertility needs are another factor that tends to vary from year to year and even field to field for a producer. An aerial application of foliar feed fertilizers as well as other micronutrients can help meet those needs of a particular commodity and again boost yields and profits. These applications are often made by air after a crop could be successfully treated by ground application due to crop size or field conditions.

Each of these examples show ways in which ag aviation plays a role in producing a local commodity and maybe someday they will take on the challenges of the weather. During the last few summers, through my employment as ground maintenance at the local airport (mowing), I have witnessed the aerial applicators from my area do their part as described above. But I have also witnessed them fulfilling another definition of a "local commodity". A commodity can also be defined as a valuable non-physical thing such as time or honesty: "Time is a precious commodity" or "Honesty can be a rare commodity."

The Agricultural Aviation industry prides itself on treating customers honestly and strives to partner with them to produce local commodities. Also many aerial applicators donate generously of their time, energies, and assets to local communities through firefighting, aviation education, agronomy information, and other ways.

So, after considering the definition of a "commodity", I believe that the role played by ag aviation in producing those local commodities is an important and vital one. This will probably be my last summer providing ground maintenance (mowing) at my local airport but I do look forward to enjoying all those local commodities for a long time to come.



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Do you have an Aviation event to promote? Let us know! Article and pictures are always welcomed. Contact us via the information below.

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NAAA AG AVIATION EXPO

Join us for the 2022 Ag Aviation Expo, Dec. 5-8, featuring the premiere trade show for agricultural aviation, great networking opportunities and a great lineup of speakers and events! It doesn't matter if you're a veteran operator, a fledging ag pilot, or an allied supplier to the ag aviation industry, you won't find a better venue than NAAA's Ag Aviation Expo to help you achieve your professional goals and business objectives.

Highlights include:

- Kickoff Breakfast Monday morning and NAAA General Session on Tuesday morning
- Educational & Training Sessions, including the NAAREF Safety Session on Thursday afternoon
- The popular NAAA Trade Show featuring 140+ companies
- Live & Silent Auction
- Networking - plenty of receptions, time between sessions and evenings to network
- Support Committee Programming for spouses and support staff
- Sessions for new or low time ag pilots: Compass Rose & "Ask The Expert" Speed Mentoring Sessions throughout the Ag Aviation Expo

Past Ag Aviation Expo Videos

- Enjoy this [time lapse video](#) of the 2017 NAAA Trade Show
- Watch [this video](#) of great convention moments of NAAA's first 50 NAAA Conventions!
- Are you wondering what happens at the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo or how the NAAA Trade Show comes together? Click [here](#) to watch a 12-minute video showing a time-lapse video of our 2013 NAAA Convention in Reno, Nev.



NAAA Nabs Significant Coverage for News Release Cautioning Unmanned Aircraft Operators Not to Interfere with Low-Altitude Manned Ag Aircraft This Season

With another growing season getting underway at a time when aerial application services are expected to be in high demand, on Monday, NAAA sent a news release to aviation and agricultural media outlets advising unmanned aircraft (UA) operators to be mindful of low-flying manned agricultural aircraft operations. The response was almost immediate.

NAAA's unmanned aircraft advisory received significant pickup from media outlets such as Farm Journal's AgWeb, CropLife News, AVweb, Vertical Magazine, AirMed&Rescue magazine, State Aviation Journal, RFD-TV's Market Day Report, the Southeast AgNet Radio Network, WOWO News/Talk radio, broadcasting from Fort Wayne, Indiana, The Mighty 790 KFGO radio in Fargo, North Dakota, News Dakota, 6Park News in Colorado, and an upcoming episode of "Farm Life Live" on Farm Life Media's social media network. News of NAAA's unmanned aircraft advisory even spread to the Australian website Farm Table.

The press release recommends that unmanned aircraft operators:

- Give the right of way to a manned aircraft. It's the law.
- Equip drones with tracking technology, such as ADS-B In, so you will know ADS-B Out-equipped manned aircraft positions.
- Get certified and well-trained in operating an unmanned aircraft.
- Contact local agricultural aviation operations before flying by consulting AgAviation.org/findapplicator.
- Equip UAs with visible strobe lights and high visibility marking.
- Land an unmanned aircraft immediately when a low-flying aircraft is nearby.
- Carry UA liability insurance.

The news release also garnered a return invitation for NAAA CEO Andrew Moore to appear on RFD-TV's daily news program. He addressed drone and ag aviator safety issues on RFD-TV's Market Day Report on April 19. During the live phone interview, Moore was asked how common encounters between manned ag aircraft and drones are. He also explained some of NAAA's key recommendations to unmanned aircraft operators and why the association is expecting a huge year for aerial applicators this season.

"With Russia's invasion of Ukraine restricting a huge portion of the world's food supply, we cannot afford even a small disruption in the nation's food supply chain," Moore said in the news release. "Agricultural aviators deliver nutrients, seeds and crop protection products to crops that will become consumers' food and fiber supply in the U.S. and around the world. Their work cannot be delayed because of an unmanned aircraft not yielding to them, as is required by law. 2021 was a big year for aerial applicators, and we expect demand for aerial application services to be even higher in 2022."

This is the sixth year NAAA has reached out to the media regarding safe UAV operations heading into the spring growing season.



2023 NATA Scholarship Information

The 2023 NATA scholarships are available to any Nebraska high school senior or individual continuing their education.

Application forms must be received by December 31, 2022. The form can be found online at www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com.

Please read the general instructions before completing your scholarship packet. The essay topic is: "What role does ag aviation play in producing a local commodity?" The essay must be a minimum of 400 words and must be typed and double spaced.

Application must include the signature of a Voting member of the Nebraska Aviation Trades Association.

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Moore, Nebraska Aviation Trades Association at 531-289-8323 or email: taylor@youraam.com

Please send the completed application form to:
Nebraska Aviation Trades Association
Scholarship Taylor Moore - 521 First Street,
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Don't Forget to Renew Your NATA Membership Before March 15th to be Included in the 2023 NATA Directory!



Lifetime Membership \$1,500 \$ _____

2023 Voting Membership - \$160 \$ _____

2023 Non-Voting Associate Membership - \$85 \$ _____

2023 Allied Membership (Supplier/non-voting) - \$70 per person \$ _____

40% of your dues not tax deductible due to lobbyist expenses

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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Deadline to be included in the 2023 Membership Directory is March 15, 2023



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2023 NATA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The directory will contain the contact name, company name, address, phone, fax numbers and emails for each NATA member and allied member.

Please complete the below form and return with payment by March 31, 2023.

Advertising Space Order Form

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