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THE *Voice*

www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com

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2024 Airman of the Year

This year's airman of the year is Tye Marquardt from Holdrege, NE. Tye has been involved in agriculture his entire life. In high school he worked at his local COOP in Indianola, NE. From there he was promoted to several different management positions at various ag retail locations throughout South Central Nebraska. He eventually landed in Kearney, NE where he was managing the Nebraska wholesale division for UAP. It was during this time that he met and began developing a great friendship with Jim Lindstrom, who owned and operated Nebraskaland Aviation.

In the spring of 2007 Tye left the wholesale world of UAP and went to work with Jim. Upon experiencing his first season in the aerial application industry, he was driven to get his pilot's license. He started flight school in Bainbridge, Georgia in the fall of 2007.

Tye finished flight school in February of 2008 and headed back to Nebraska. Jim gave Tye the opportunity to become a business partner that year. They worked side by side until 2012 when Tye purchased the remaining portion of the business.

It was an exciting time for Tye, his wife Aimee, and their 5 kids. Nebraskaland Aviation was growing at a rapid pace, which opened the door to wonderful opportunities for Tye and Aimee's children to join the family business.

The most important thing in Tye's life is his family, and watching his kids become involved in Nebraskaland Aviation has been a dream come true for him. Tye and Aimee's sons, Tony and Austin, work full-time at the Holdrege location. Their daughter, Alexis, and her husband, Travis, live in Juniata where Travis manages the Holstein location. Their youngest children, twins Derrek and Taya, are sophomores at Holdrege High School and help at Nebraskaland in the summers.

Over the years, Nebraskaland has expanded to serve a 22-county area in South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas. There are locations in Holdrege, Holstein, Alma, Minden, Phillipsburg, Kansas and Smith Center, Kansas. Tye also partners with three other families to operate O&S Flying Service in Holdrege, Knox Ag Aviation in York and Anderson Aerial in Russell, Kansas.



Nebraskaland just completed a major expansion of its facilities at Brewster Field. The project included demolishing its old hangars, which totaled about 4,500 square feet of space, and building a new 20,000-square-foot hangar. They have also recently completed paving the runway in Holstein, NE that was previously a grass strip.

Tye's constantly striving to improve his business, the Holdrege airfield, and his community. He serves on the Airport Authority Board in Holdrege and is also a partner in Holdrege Aviation, which provides many general aviation services to Holdrege's expanding airport. In October of 2023, he was awarded the 2023 large business of the year by the Phelps County Development Corporation. Nebraskaland Aviation was simultaneously inducted into the PCDC Business Hall of Fame.

Nebraskaland Aviation currently employs over 40 people who are more like family to Tye. Tye oftentimes mentions is that "Without our team and customer base in which we serve, Nebraskaland would not be what it is today." He will say without hesitation that the team at Nebraskaland is the best group of people he has ever had the privilege of working with.



THE NATA VOICE

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Contact Taylor Moore with questions or to purchase an advertisement.

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2024 NATA Convention Photos



**FUTURE NATA
CONVENTIONS**

February 24-26, 2025

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

February 23-25, 2026

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

2024 NATA Convention Photos



Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!



Congratulations to our Award Winners!



2024 Airman of the Year
Tye Marquardt



2023 Allied Representative
Cass Corman, BASF



2024 Convention Comparison

Convention Attendance	2021	2022	2023	2024
NATA Members	70	116	135	70
Spouses	11	15	8	11
Tuesday PAASS Only	10	4	0	10
Convention Only	5	20	15	5
PAASS	76	119	107	76
Exhibits	30	38	46	46
Exhibitor Reps	61	75	93	85

Thank you to our 2024 Exhibitors!

AERO GUARD AVIATION INSURANCE
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2025 NATA Scholarship Information

The 2025 NATA scholarships are available to any Nebraska high school senior or individual continuing their education.

Application forms must be received by December 31, 2024. 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 are the biggest obstacles to the ag aviation industry in your area? Discuss how they could be overcome.”* 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

ATTN: Taylor Moore

521 First Street

Milford, NE 68405

Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship Winners!

1st Place - Thomas Thomas

Aerial Application Effect on Local Economy

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin stated, "nothing is certain but death and taxes". In 2023, this statement is still absolutely true as people grow old and pass on and taxes are revenue for a local economy. Agricultural aviation provides many opportunities for local economy growth through job creation, increased farming profits, and food supply safety. This ag aviation led growth leads to more tax revenues and thus, a stronger local economy.

Ag aviation is a significant driver of job creation in a local economy. A National Agricultural Aviation Association industry survey finalized in 2019 showed the average agricultural spraying operation had 6.2 employees with two of those employees being pilots making \$63,000/year. Other employees would include the owner/operator, office workers, and seasonal personnel. An ag spraying operation also has support industries such as chemical and fuel distribution companies. These industries have salespeople, material handlers, delivery personnel and office employees employed as a direct or indirect result of ag aviation related sales. To a lesser degree, jobs are also created in aircraft mechanics and insurance which also support ag aviation with their services. The shared characteristic amongst all these employed individuals is that they are all consumers and investors in a local economy. They are living and/or working in a local area purchasing groceries, fuel for their vehicles, and other necessities of life while paying taxes on their wages, their homes, their vehicles, and all those purchases. What starts from a single business entity of ag aviation is exponentially multiplied throughout a local economy by all the people involved.

A second way ag aviation can influence a local economy is through improved farm production yields. Farmers are always striving to improve their crop production and yields can be increased when ag aviation is used. The improved yields result in an increased income for their farmer customers. This is accomplished by ag aviation's ability to apply crop protection products efficiently, at the proper timing of the crop growth stage, and with less crop damage compared to use of normal farm equipment. Crop protection products include plant health fungicides, insecticides, and weed control for crop farmland and pasture. Plant health is improved by the killing of pathogens, pests, and nutrient/moisture stealing weeds. Ag aviation also works in other ways to help farmers with their crops. Fertilizer can be applied quickly to help the crops continue to grow strong and healthy. Late summer applications of cover crop seed aid in keeping the soil in good condition for future crops. As stated earlier, increased crop yields result in increased income for farmers which then benefits the local economy. According to a 2020 University of Nebraska-Lincoln agriculture economic impact report, agriculture accounts for 1/3 of Nebraska's economic output. The average income multiplier for every dollar created is 61%. Applying this information to a cornfield that has an aerial applied fungicide, one can approximate the economic value created. Increased yield of eight bushels/acre at \$4.80/bushel over 160 acres equals \$6,144.00. Applying the 61% multiplier the economic value created in this example is approximately \$10,000. When this scenario is spread over thousands of acres of crop producing farmland, the local economic impact quickly becomes incredibly large.

Finally, an affordable and safe food supply is critical to a local economy. Without crop protection products to control crop diseases and pests, crop yield could drop by 50%. Lower yields would significantly increase the amount of money spent on food by the consumer. This higher cost would take money out of a local economy because consumers would be spending more of their nonessential dollars on food. Crop protection products and the professionals that apply them play a valuable role in keeping the food supply safe and plentiful and money in the local economy. Agricultural aviation creates jobs, increases farm production and profits, and ensures food supply safety. These three examples may seem small in comparison to other industries' influence but in the rural farming areas of the United States, agricultural aviation flies strong in local economies.

Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship Winners!

2nd Place - Charli Wells

On the Wings of Airplanes: How Ag Aviation Helps Local Economies Soar

I have watched green shoots poke out of the ground and corn line the undulations of the land. I have experienced farmers gathering from the field and have eaten food provided by earth-covered hands. I have attended a public school built proudly on old acreage and have been a part of the living, breathing community on Phelps County soil. But, as I reflect on what has made this life possible, I don't look down. I look up. Agricultural aviation is a vital part of our Nebraska story. The aerial application industry benefits farmers, provides jobs, and gives back to communities with its mighty contributions to the local economy.

Since its beginning as crop dusting, agricultural aviation has evolved and continues to fuel the ag industry. Crop producers benefit immensely from the services aerial applicators provide, such as protective spraying and fertilizing. This treatment of food, fuel, and fiber with products to ward off insects and disease or to aid in growth is perhaps one of a farmer's greatest assets. Applications of herbicide, pesticide, or fungicide allow a producer to cut down on crop loss and thus have a healthier and larger yield. Fertilizer cover can help enrich soil and plants from above and can contribute to producing more plants on the same amount of land. As often the most economic choice and as evidenced by higher yield, the aerial application industry is helping to put money in the hard-working pockets of farmers.

Just as a tailwind brings with it a speeding plane, ag aviation is ushering new lifeblood into my community in the form of seasonal work, job opportunities, and local businesses. With the arrival of spring and the growing season come seasonal pilots. These individuals, many of whom work as professional aerial applicators year-round, come to my small town from far-flung areas of the nation, such as Georgia, Texas, Minnesota, and North Dakota. While these pilots bring with them accents and ag diversity, they also bring with them billfolds and flying ability, both of which help better our local economy. And yet, ag aviation takes more than just pilots. My little town has many aerial application businesses, many of which have been family-owned for generations. These operations employ a wide variety of ag aviation personnel such as mixers, loaders, mechanics, crop advisors, and marketers. Each of these positions can be filled by a dedicated citizen of my home town, contributing to individual financial success and community economic success through the filling of local jobs with local people.

My community is built around and because of ag aviation. Holdrege is an agrarian community surrounded by crop fields of all kinds. Farming is our way of life. Just as crop production is strengthened through aerial application, my community is strengthened by the industry that makes this possible. Our local agriculture aviation operations are invested into the Holdrege and Phelps County community. These businesses sponsor and donate to many local organizations and activities, such as our FFA chapter, youth sports teams, community events, and the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation. Aerial application businesses are almost always among the first to give back economically to the community they love.

Agricultural aviation is a vital component of my town's successful economy through its contribution to the financial success of farmers, local job market, and Holdrege community. As the great-granddaughter of a man who started one of Holdrege's first aerial application businesses and one who grew up in the backseat of an airplane, I can attest to these things. It's in my blood. And with its evident contribution to Holdrege's local economy, I can say agricultural aviation is in our blood.



Membership Application 2024

Lifetime Membership - \$1,500	\$ _____
2024 Voting Membership - \$160	\$ _____
2024 Non-Voting Associate Membership - \$85	\$ _____
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40% of your dues not tax deductible due to lobbyist expenses

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The following information will be used in the membership directory

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Deadline to be included in the 2024 membership Directory is March 1, 2024



2024 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, 2024.

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