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THE Voice

www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com

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NATA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE: ZACHARY NELSON

What role does ag aviation play in producing a local commodity?

I became familiar with the concept of agricultural aviation at a young age. My father works as a Nebraska farm manager, so I heard terms such as “aerial spraying” and “crop duster” throughout my childhood. Early on, I learned that many factors influence land management, including agricultural aviation. Ag aviators take incredible risks by operating aircraft at slow speeds and low altitudes, broadcasting and spraying products that boost farming efficiency and control weeds and diseases. Without aerial aviators, yield quality and quantity would suffer, especially for crops grown on large fields, such as field corn and soybeans. Therefore, agricultural aviation is a tool particularly useful in the Midwestern United States, as it effectively aids in crop production on a widespread scale.

As an integral tool for farmers and agriculturalists worldwide, this type of aviation utilizes specialized equipment and trained pilots to apply fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to large tracts of land. This technology covers farmland in a fraction of the time it would take to do so using traditional farming methods. Unlike tractors, aerial spraying has the added benefit of not compacting the soil. Its introduction in the early 1900s revolutionized agriculture, reducing labor-intensive work in a precise and environmentally friendly manner. Most agricultural aircraft now include GPS technology, which accurately and uniformly applies substances while preventing over-application. Over-application is not only damaging to crops, but it is also economically and environmentally wasteful. Some farmers also hire aerial applicators to broadcast cover crop seed. Cover crops boost soil and yield fertility by reducing evaporation, holding moisture, decreasing erosion, increasing organic matter, and preventing devastating pests.

Agricultural sustainability has skyrocketed as ag aviation has evolved. From food to bio-energy, aerial applicators ensure the abundance of local commodity production. Growing up with a brother who is now an airline pilot, I have witnessed the long hours and intensity required to become an aviator. This fact, coupled with my knowledge of agricultural aviation through my father’s work, has made it apparent that applicators deserve immense praise for their efforts and dedication to making a considerable impact on agrarian production. Without these innovative and often overlooked flight advances, the world economy and society would be unrecognizable. Through its one-of-a-kind strategy, agricultural aviation plays an essential role in producing a local commodity, successfully contributing to increased energy and food supply for the world’s growing population.

THE NATA VOICE

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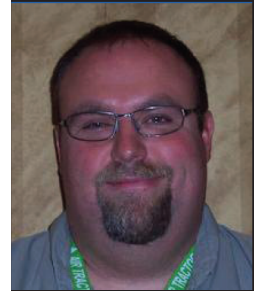
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Contact Taylor Moore with questions or to purchase an advertisement.

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NATA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE: EMMA MATSON

What role does ag aviation play in producing a local commodity?

Agricultural aviation has always been a big part of my life. Since I was a little girl, I have been around airplanes as my grandma and grandpa own and operate an aerial application business. Whether it be the purring of the ag-cats as they reload or the whirl of the engine as they accelerate into the sky, I am intrigued by it all. When I was reading this question, it really made me consider the following: I have been around the spraying business all my life, and I have never really stopped to think about all the different commodities grown right in my area.

You can drive less than five minutes from town and find fields of corn, wheat, and soybeans. Occasionally, you will find a patch of yellow sunflowers. When you stop to think about it, all of these local commodities can benefit from ag aviation. Advancements in the aviation industry have provided producers with benefits to their yields, efficiency in applications, and the ability to cover diverse lands in different circumstances.

Crop yield is defined as "a measurement of the amount of agricultural production harvested per unit of land area" (investopedia.com). When aerial application is utilized, it can increase yield numbers because the product lands on the upper canopy of the crops. There are numerous studies that prove fungicides are more effective when put on through an aircraft. Their water volume is lower than chemigation, which can cause the product to become too diluted. As you can see, aerial application will benefit producers with more crop yields at the end of the season.

The efficiency of aerial application affects the local commodity by its ability to cover more acres of land in a shorter period of time. Today's aircraft are equipped with navigation systems that make the job more efficient, resulting in less product lost as well as less time spent on each treatment. It can also be more cost effective and provides timely application when needed, lowering the cost of the commodity. When chemicals are applied through an aircraft, there is no soil compaction that occurs. This allows farmers to avoid unnecessary destruction of the commodity that can result from ground rigs. These are just a few of the reasons why ag aviation is beneficial.

Where I live, a producer can face many different challenges in a growing season. One of these challenges is the amount of rain that can occur at a single time. Some fields are grown on rough terrain that can be difficult for land vehicles to get in and out of regularly. Aerial application provides an approach that does not depend on a land vehicle's abilities, but rather a unique "eye in the sky" for both the applicator and the farmer.

The people involved in agricultural aviation-operators, pilots, and their families-are committed and devoted to putting in endless hours of work. They work sun up to sun down during the growing season to put food on all of our tables. These men and women's perseverance is what makes the prosperous commodities in my area possible.

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

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

NAAA AG AVIATION EXPO:

Join us for the 2023 Ag Aviation Expo, Dec. 4-7, 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. Thank you to the many sponsors supporting the Ag Aviation Expo.

Highlights include:

- Kickoff Breakfast Monday morning will feature Burt Rutan, Aerospace entrepreneur
- NAAA General Session on Tuesday morning
- Flying in the Wire and Obstruction Environment Course on Thursday, December 7
- 20+ hours of Education & Training Sessions
- The popular NAAA Trade Show featuring 150+ companies
- Karaoke NAAREF Fundraiser: Pitch Perfect for PAASS
- Live & Silent Auction
- Excellence in Ag Aviation Awards Banquet
- 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

Future Ag Aviation Expo Dates

November 18-21, 2024

Fort Worth Convention Center
Fort Worth, TX

November 17-20, 2025

Atlantis & Reno Convention Center
Reno, NV

November 16-19, 2026

Savannah Convention Center & Westin
Savannah, GA

November 15-18, 2027

Oklahoma City Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK

November 13-16, 2028

Reno Convention Center & Atlantis
Reno, NV

Aviation Art Contest 2023 “Air Sports & The Environment”

By David Morris

Since 1986, the Department of Transportation - Division of Aeronautics has sponsored an annual Aviation Art Contest for the benefit of our youth. The program goal is to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, math, and science. There are three age categories of contestants: 6-9, 10-13 and 14-17 for boys and girls.

The sense of liberty that pilots and skydivers feel when flying through the skies often comes hand-in-hand with a deep appreciation of the blue and green planet below.

Aviation has always been at the forefront of technology and over the generations, those involved in aeronautics have felt an ever-increasing pressure to protect our planet.

By letting our imagination fly, we asked our youth to explore the ways that air sports can interact harmoniously with our environment. How can air sports help inspire others to protect our earth? How can technology and greener fuels be used to power aircraft? How could aviation be involved in reducing, reusing, and recycling?

For youngsters from ages 6 thru 17, it was time to get out their favorite artist supplies and give free rein to their imagination by creating a poster that represents their thoughts when they think about the theme of “Air Sports & The Environment” for the Aviation Art Contest 2023.

We want to recognize and congratulate the following individuals for their accomplishments:

Beginning with Category I Junior (Age 6-9), Carmen Wolpert, Omaha, winning 3rd place, followed by Mia Hetzler, Omaha, capturing 2nd place. To wrap up this group was Isabella Schmidt, Roseland, taking 1st place.

In Category II Intermediate (Age 10-13) was Dee Goodlander, Humboldt, winning 3rd place, followed by Shawna Richey, Humboldt, capturing 2nd place. And, taking 1st place Kiersten Hans, Wynot.

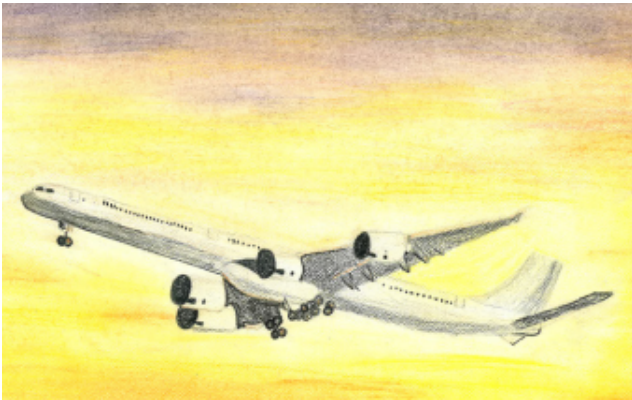
In Category III Senior (Age 14-17) was Ella Kobza, Falls City, capturing 3rd place, followed by Pete Davis, Franklin, taking 2nd place, and Owen Severson, Osmond, taking 1st place. We are proud to congratulate the following individuals who deservedly won Honorable Mention: Noelle Lulla, Daviel Alvarez Roman, Amelia West, Ty Dunekacke, Nate Burns, Miah Munoz, Lorena Pagnano, Eden Stewart, Emma Caro, Matheson Hunt, Leia Meyer, Cali Gutz, Winnie Huber, Erica Heiman and Addison vonRentzell.

We at the NDOT – Division of Aeronautics want to send a special “Congratulations” to all the contestants. Your work was outstanding, and this made for tough decisions of the judging committee. To the parents, teachers and mentors, the Division wants to say a special “Thank You” for all the time, hard work and support you have put into this program. Without your continual generous support, this program simply would not exist.



Aviation Art Contest 2023 “Air Sports & The Environment”

By David Morris



2024 NATA Scholarship Information

The 2024 NATA scholarships are available to any Nebraska high school senior or individual continuing their education.

Application forms must be received by December 31, 2023. 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 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,
Milford, NE 68405



Membership Application

2023

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: \$_____

The following information will be used in the membership directory

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