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# THE Voice

[www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com](http://www.nebraskaaviationtradesassociation.com)

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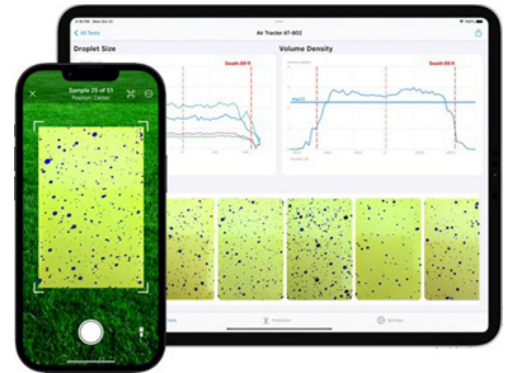
ISSUE NO. 5

## Is Operation S.A.F.E. on your End-of-Season Checklist?

If your aircraft has not been through Operation S.A.F.E. in 2022 or 2023, NAAREF recommends doing so prior to the start of the 2024 season. While many across the country have their aircraft pattern tested in the Spring, it is not at all uncommon to do so in the Fall. Performing this critical testing on your equipment in the Fall presents several benefits. The operational pace, for one, is typically milder in Fall compared to Spring. You also may have ideas for application setup changes fresh in your mind after a season focused on your work.

If you are unable to attend a traditional Fly-In this Fall, as an NAAA member, you have alternative options.

Earlier this year, [NAAA announced the release of DropFlight](#), an iPhone/iPad app which allows extremely fast scanning and analysis of water-sensitive spray cards, all on your Apple mobile devices. This tool, created under the direction of a U.S. aerial applicator, is targeted specifically for aerial applicators to use in assessing spray pattern uniformity, effective swath width and droplet size across the swath.



[Download DropFlight on the App Store](#)

Use NAAA member code: NAAA23

Another option for conducting your own spray pattern testing is to use AccuPatt, the same desktop (Windows/MacOS) software that Operation S.A.F.E. Analysts use. Originally developed to run the string testing systems you may have seen at a Fly-In, AccuPatt has grown to include spray-card-analysis functionality that can be used independently to perform spray-card-only pattern testing. Now, it is being offered to NAAA members for use in their own operation at no cost. A flatbed scanner is required to digitize the spray-cards for analysis.

[Download AccuPatt for Windows/MacOS](#)

Consult the [User Manual](#) to get up and running



To further reduce friction in getting your spray pattern testing underway, DropFlight is also offering all the needed [testing gear](#). Available as a [convenient kit](#), or by the piece, their card mounting system makes it simple to lay out cards uniformly and in the correct orientation to the wind. This testing gear will work with both DropFlight and AccuPatt and is the fastest and most convenient way to acquire all the equipment you need to conduct your own pattern testing.

As always, if you consult with a [NAAREF-recognized Operation S.A.F.E. Analyst](#) about your pattern testing data, they can report this to NAAREF as participation in Operation S.A.F.E. NAAA members will receive an official letter of participation and credit toward C-PAASS certification.

The application window for 2023 C-PAASS Certification will close shortly after the Ag Aviation Expo. Make sure your name is on this prestigious list for the inaugural year of C-PAASS; if Operation S.A.F.E. credit is the only box left for you to tick before applying, this is your opportunity. If you haven't done so yet, you can [check your 2023 C-PAASS eligibility here](#).

## THE NATA VOICE

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521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405 - Phone: 531-289-8323, Email: [taylor@youraam.com](mailto:taylor@youraam.com)



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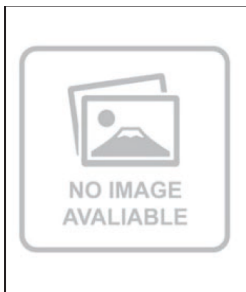
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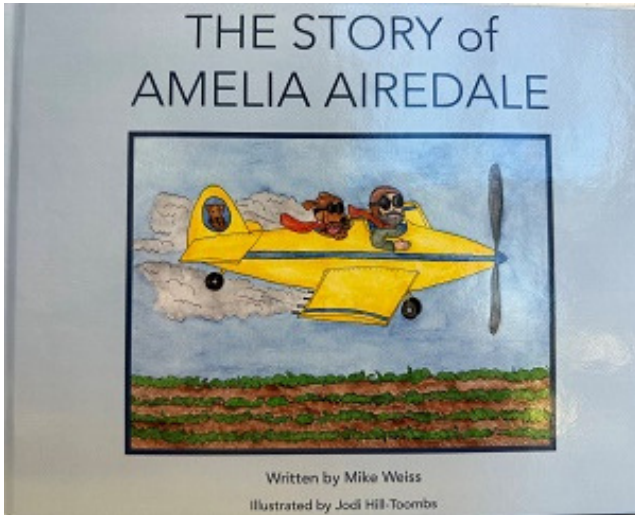
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Contact Taylor Moore with questions or to purchase an advertisement.

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## Another Fun Children’s Book Available on Aerial Application: The Story of Amelia Airedale:



If you want to have a doggone good time reading to a little tyke on the subject of aerial application fetch yourself a copy of “The Story of Amelia Airedale,” a book for younglings about an Airedale pooch named Amelia that is fascinated by the aerial applicators treating spuds in Idaho. Amelia—spoiler alert—lives in a kennel beside a runway and she and her fellow Airedale friends rescue Crop Duster Bob when he loses ground visibility flying in the clouds. Crop Duster Bob hears the dogs’ barking to safely identify the runway’s location and land his ag aircraft. The dogs are then treated to a delicious feast of aerally treated scalloped, baked and fried taters. Amelia even gets to fly with Crop Duster Bob in his newly painted ag aircraft that has Amelia’s picture painted on its tail. The fun little book, written by Mike Weiss and illustrated by Jodi Hill-Toombs, is currently available on-line at [Barnes and Noble](#), or by contacting [Mike Weiss](#).

## Cover Crops Press Release Available for Members to Send to Local Media Outlets

While the season for aerial applicators is slowing down in several parts of the country, many applicators are seeding cover crop seeds into late summer and early fall. NAAA has prepared a [sample press release](#) (this link will open a Word document) that you can personalize to your own aerial application business and send to your local media outlets. The press release serves the purpose of alerting the public that they may still see and hear your ag plane working. It also educates the public on the great conservation practice of seeding cover crops.

A direct link to the press release is [here](#) or you can access it through the [Media Kit link](#) on the NAAA website. Make sure to review the other sample press releases available in the Media Kit.

Aerial application offers the ability to spread cover crop seeds over the existing cash crop without any disruption to the standing crop. This means the cover crop can already be established when the cash crop is harvested. Using a drill to plant cover crops requires a terrestrial vehicle and for the grower to wait until their cash crop is out of the field, which might not be the best timing for establishing a healthy cover crop. This can be especially true in northern parts of the U.S. where the first frost can interfere with cover crop growth if they are seeded too late. Aerial application can also be used when the soil is wet and can seed many acres quickly.



**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](mailto: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



# Lincoln Air Show





# Rick Boardman Brings Home Grand Champion Win at National STOL Series

Congratulations to 2015 NAAA President and aerial application operator Rick Boardman of R&M Flying Service in Henderson, NE for his Grand Championship win at the Music City STOL Series in the Sport Class over Labor Day weekend. Rick flew a 2015 Carbon Cub SS in the competition.

Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) aircraft are aircraft built to get in and out of an area in the shortest amount of time possible. Some aircraft are designed from the ground up to be a STOL airplane, and others have just been modified to make them more capable as STOL aircraft. They can operate on and off airport, on grass, snow, ice or any other runway in harsh conditions or operate off prepared strips.

The Sport Class is made up of the following aircraft types:

CSport Cub S2; Zenith 701 & 750; Rans S-7LS; Super Legend; T-Craft (1,320 lbs); Bearhawk LSA; Carbon Cub SS; Dakota Super 18-LT; Legend (ELSA); Rans (ELSA); Just Aircraft Highlander & SuperSTOL, PA-11 / J3, AL-3. Other FAA certificated ASEL as determined by a maximum gross weight up to 1,320 lbs.

Congratulations, Rick!



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 2024

Lifetime Membership - \$1,500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 Voting Membership - \$160 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 Non-Voting Associate Membership - \$85 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2024 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to:

NATA  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405

Phone: 531-289-8323 | Email: [kelsey@youraam.com](mailto:kelsey@youraam.com)

***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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### Advertising Space Order Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$225 Half Page (4.5x3.5) - Full Color Ad

\$325 Full Page (4.5x7.75) - Full Color Ad

#### AD SPACE AUCTIONED AT THE 2024 NATA CONVENTION

***Inside Front Cover  
Opposite Inside Front  
Inside Back Cover  
Opposite Inside Back  
Back Cover***

***PLEASE EMAIL YOUR AD IN JPEG OR PDF FORMAT TO [KELSEY@YOURAAM.COM](mailto:kelsey@youraam.com)***

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