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THE Voice

www.gonata.net NOVEMBER 2019 VOLUME No. 19 ISSUE No. 6

Ryan Stuhlmiller Picked for 2020 NAAA/Syngenta Leadership Training Program



Ryan Stuhlmiller Picked for 2020 NAAA/Syngenta Leadership Training Program

For years Syngenta has supported NAAA/state association members in this valuable training opportunity.

The Leadership Training Program includes training that enables its participants to develop a strong ability to clearly communicate the important role aerial application plays in the production of our country's agricultural products to the public, media and government. The training also involves teaching techniques to more effectively run and manage an aerial application business and to serve more effectively as a leader while serving industry organizations, such as NAAA and state agricultural aviation associations. Criteria for qualification include:

Industry Involvement: Candidates must be involved in an agricultural aviation business or a related allied industry organization as deemed appropriate by the nominating state/regional AAA. This includes partial or total ownership of a least one agricultural aircraft; and/or a managing employee, stockholder or pilot of an agricultural aviation business; and/or an employee of an Allied Industry member company.

Leadership Involvement: Leadership experience developed from past involvement in regional or state industry associations, community service involvement and/or school or professional organizations will warrant strong consideration.

Industry Future: Future involvement in the aerial application industry is imperative; therefore, candidates are asked to talk about their plans for the future within the industry.

NAAA Membership: Candidates must be a member of the appropriate state/regional agricultural aviation association and NAAA.

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Published by the Nebraska Aviation Trades Association

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EPA PROPOSES UPDATE TO APPLICATION EXCLUSION ZONE REQUIREMENTS

Published In: NAAA Newsletter

Last week the EPA released proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) regulating Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) requirements.

The AEZ was part of the revised WPS rules originally released in 2015. The AEZ was proposed by the EPA to be a protective “bubble” around the sprayer that traveled with it as the sprayer moved during the application. Under existing regulations, individuals cannot be within the AEZ, even if the AEZ extends beyond the farm owner’s property line. As currently written, applicators have to suspend an application if someone entered the AEZ, even if that person was not on the farm and under no control of the farmer or applicator. The off-farm aspect of this provision has proven to be very difficult for state regulators to enforce. Many agricultural organizations, including NAAA, commented on the burdensome nature of the AEZ.

The updated WPS would have the AEZ stop at the farm owner’s property line, allowing for easier implementation and enforcement. Off property bystanders would still be protected under existing label requirements that prohibit applicators from drifting on people. Additionally, immediate family members of the farm owner would be exempt from the AEZ requirement, allowing them to remain in their homes or other enclosed structures during applications. The AEZ would remain 25 feet in all directions for ground applications and 100 feet in all directions for aerial, air blast, air-propelled, fumigant, smoke, mist and fog pesticide applications.

These changes will be subject to a 90-day public comment period once officially published in the federal register. NAAA will submit comments supporting most of the changes but will also advocate wind direction be taken into consideration along with an AEZ distance similar to ground—25 feet.

“EPA’s proposal would enhance the agency’s Application Exclusion Zone provisions by making them more effective and easier to implement,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “In listening to input from stakeholders, our proposal will make targeted updates, maintaining safety requirements to protect the health of those in farm country, while providing greater flexibility for farmers.”

“President Trump made a commitment to our farmers to reduce burdensome regulations, and this is another example of him making good on that promise. This action will make it easier for our farmers and growers to comply with the Application Exclusion Zone provisions, providing them with the flexibility to do what they do best—feed, fuel, and clothe the world,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

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5 WAYS TO IMPROVE AS AG PILOTS AND AN INDUSTRY

By: *Dominique Youakim*

Agricultural Aviation, Fall 2019

I have had the privilege and opportunity to not only serve as your 2017 NAAA President but as the 2019 NAAREF President. Our industry is small but vital to agriculture, forestry and public health and safety. That is why membership in our association is so important. The bigger our numbers, the more strength we have as an industry. As such, we need to look past our personality differences, see the big picture of what NAAA and NAAREF are doing to sustain and strengthen the aerial application industry for the next 100 years and support them.

We have experienced some extreme weather in many areas of the country this year, which is likely to challenge our industry as well as the ag industry in general. It is tough to control the weather, but there are other areas we can influence. Here are five areas I believe as an industry we can continually focus upon and improve.

DISTRACTIONS IN THE COCKPIT

In the 2018–2019 PAASS Program Air Tractor sponsored a profound ad that stressed that ag pilots need 20/20 focus. When I first heard the message, it did not resonate, but after presenting the program the message seeped in, and I believe it is a slogan we should keep in the forefront day in and day out. Do you have 20/20 focus? If not, is it worth your life? Have a friend, worker or outside party evaluate your cockpit for distractions and your ability as an aerial applicator. If you were scheduled for surgery wouldn't you want your doctor to have 20/20 focus? Would you want the operating room to be filled with distractions that would take his or her focus off you?



PILOT RECRUITMENT

Whose job is it to look for our future pilots, ground crew and other members of our operations? Is it NAAA's? NAAREF's? Your state association's?

The aviation industry in general is recruiting harder than I have seen in the past 25 years for talent. If you are an operator you should be thinking about potential team members to help your business, as well as an eventual successor. Ask yourself: What do I have to offer an employee? Do I have an attractive policy for vacation? 401(k)? Healthcare? Advancement opportunity? Personal/professional growth? You need to create an environment that will attract and retain an employee who fits your operation's work culture.



While NAAA and NAAREF are working at the national level to expose the industry to as many people as possible in a positive light, it is important that we all spend a certain amount of time recruiting and promoting our industry in the communities that we work and live in. With unemployment at less than 4%, finding qualified and talented people is a real challenge. How many hours a week do you spend recruiting? Does your team recruit? Do you do facility tours? Do you speak at your local schools? Local FFA? Do you have an incentive that you can provide to current employees if they refer an employee that remains for a certain period of time?

MENTOR/MENTEE

Mentoring has been discussed at our state, regional and national conventions, both formally in sessions like NAAREF's Compass Rose program and informally between operators and pilots at these shows. I have thought about this topic many times over the past year as I have been mentoring a fixed-wing pilot and more recently a rotor-wing pilot. I have learned that I should take nothing for granted. I also believe I must honestly and continually evaluate myself. This includes taking an inventory of my strengths, weaknesses and personality as well as of the person I am mentoring. There are many behavioral assessment options from which to choose, from DISC to StrengthsFinder to Heritage Profile to identify a few. Perform an honest evaluation of yourself and ask yourself, "Am I capable of being a mentor? Am I going to devote the time necessary? Do I have clear expectations for the mentee? Do I have a plan for them? Do I have a plan for myself?"

PILOT SKILLS

As pilots, at some point we all think we are good enough, don't we? For those who have not done a formal flight review, and I know we have members that have not had one in many years, I encourage you to remember what excited you when you learned to fly and to undergo another review. Some alternatives to the flight review: Get an additional certificate or rating, such as an instrument rating, multiengine rating, seaplane rating, instructor rating, aerobatic training, or if you are a fixed-wing pilot, a helicopter add-on, or vice versa for a rotor wing pilot. Think of it as enjoyment to be had rather than a sentence to be served. Raise the bar on yourself.

SOCIAL MEDIA

NAAA and NAAREF, which includes all those who volunteer or are on staff, spend countless hours defending the industry against the large number of people that do not like what we do for a living. There is a time and a place for pictures and/or discussions regarding our industry. However, I have seen other posts and discussions on social media that don't serve any positive value for our important industry. How would the FAA and public react if social media posts surfaced of airline pilots wearing flip-flops and tank tops with drinks in hand at the entrance of a commercial airliner as passengers were boarding? We all must be accountable to our industry and our peers, endeavoring to do our best to promote the ag aviation community.

From what I have experienced in my travels around the country during my involvement with NAAA and NAAREF is a community of aerial applicators that has a passion, pride and love for what do, which is helping provide the food, biofuel and fiber to a needy world. Let's strive to project that image in a positive and professional manner online and off. Remember, the lights of the public are always shining on us and the camera is always recording.

Each one of these topics could be an article in itself, but my goal for each of you is to ask the following questions of yourself:

- In what way can I eliminate distractions in the cockpit?
- In what way can I help recruitment and industry sustainability?
- In what way can I become a great mentor?
- In what way can I become a better, safer pilot?
- In what way can I use social media to positively promote my industry?

If each of us acted on these five areas, we would have over 20,000 positive actions that would have a huge impact on our industry.

SAVE THE DATE

Ag Aviation Expo

Join us for the NAAA Ag Aviation Expo
November 18–21, 2019 ♦ Orlando, FL

Join us for the 2019 Ag Aviation Expo in Orlando, FL, Nov. 18-21, 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 150+ 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: Compaass Rose & "Ask The Expert" Speed Mentoring Sessions throughout the Ag Aviation Expo

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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FUTURE NATA CONVENTIONS

February 23-26, 2020
Younes Center, Kearney

February 14-17, 2021
Embassy Suites, LaVista

February 27-March 2, 2022
Younes Center, Kearney

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Email: _____

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Lifetime Membership	\$1,500.00	_____	\$_____
2020 Voting Membership (Pt. 137/Owner/Operator/Pilot)	\$150.00	_____	\$_____
2020 Non-Voting Associate Membership (Non-Pilot/Employee)	\$75.00	_____	\$_____
2020 Allied Membership (Supplier/non-voting)	\$60/per person	_____	\$_____
		Total Enclosed:	\$_____

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

Make Check Payable to:
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**Deadline to be included in the
2020 Membership Directory is March 15, 2020!**

2020 NATA ANNUAL CONVENTION ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

February 23-26, 2020 - Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

CONTACT INFORMATION

(The following information will be used as your membership listing in the 2020 NATA Directory)

MEMBER NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ SPOUSE NAME(if applicable): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Name(s) of other(s) who will attend and name for badge:

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CONVENTION REGISTRATION

	Before Jan. 1	After Jan. 1	QUANTITY	TOTAL
NATA Member <i>(includes PAASS)</i>	\$165	\$205/person	_____	\$ _____
NATA MEMBER <i>(Convention Only - No PAASS)</i>	\$75	\$100/person	_____	\$ _____
Non-Member <i>(includes PAASS)</i>	\$340	\$380/person	_____	\$ _____
Tuesday Only Member <i>(PAASS & Exhibit Hall)</i>	\$155	\$180/person	_____	\$ _____
Tuesday Only Non- Member <i>(PAASS & Exhibit Hall)</i>	\$315	\$355/person	_____	\$ _____
Convention Meal Package <i>(Two Luncheons)</i>	\$66	\$66/person	_____	\$ _____
NATA Spouse	\$60	\$60/person	_____	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____

*******YOU MUST ATTEND THE PAASS PROGRAM ON TUESDAY AND RECERTIFICATION ON WEDNESDAY TO BE CERTIFIED*******

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*4% processing fee when paying with credit card

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Signature _____ CVV: _____

On-site registration is provided, but only credit card or check payments will be accepted before entry is allowed into the event.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

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February 23-26, 2020 - Younes Conference Center, NE

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 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
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 Name(s) of other(s) who will attend and name for badge: _____

EXHIBIT BOOTHS

	COST <i>Before January 1</i>	COST <i>After January 1</i>	QUANTITY	TOTAL
_____ Exhibit Booth <i>(Includes one allied membership dues)</i>	\$375	\$400	_____	\$ _____
_____ Exhibit Booth Electricity	\$30	\$10/per day	_____	\$ _____

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITOR ITEMS

_____ Additional Allied Memberships	\$60	\$60/per person	_____	\$ _____
_____ Meal Package <i>(Includes two luncheons)</i>	\$66	\$66/per person	_____	\$ _____

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TOTAL \$ _____

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Please refer to the Exhibitor Registration Information & layout to complete the following.

Exhibit location preferred: 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____
(Please indicate, by number, the location of your choice.)

Please check the items you need for your display: Extra Chairs *(Two are included with the booth)*

Please list any exhibitor(s) you do not wish to be located by: _____

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