



# MOVING FORWARD WITH FARMING – THE BIGGEST JOB ON EARTH



## Let's move forward together

While farming is the biggest job on earth, farmers are not facing the challenge alone. We support productive, sustainable agriculture, allowing farmers to protect the land they hold in trust for future generations while meeting the demands of modern society.

We pledge to:

- Invest in the right solutions to enable farmers to grow more quality food, more efficiently.
- Share our expertise to help farmers to make a better life for themselves and their communities.
- Never compromise on safety to allow farmers work in a safe environment and produce safe, healthy food.

In everything we do, we will play our part in leaving a positive environmental inheritance.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with farmers. Together, we will move forward on our journey.

## Fly-In Program Uncompromising Safety

### ■ Safe aerial application

In line with our pledge to never compromise on safety, we incentivize all aerial applicators in the U.S. to participate in the Operation S.A.F.E. (Self-Regulating Application & Flight Efficiency) Fly-In-Program, sponsored by BASF in association with state or regional agricultural aviation associations.

Held regularly throughout the year, the Fly-Ins help aerial applicators and pilots to learn about and comply with all pertinent legal requirements. An expert is available to analyze the equipment for spray pattern uniformity and droplet size and recommend changes to improve performance.

Meanwhile, pilots and aerial applicators have the option of using the financial incentive to either upgrade spray equipment or pay membership fees to join the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) and avail of additional training.

Along with offering reliable, effective products like Headline® Amp fungicide to the agricultural aviation industry, this is part of BASF's ongoing stewardship efforts to ensure the safe and proper application of its products.

### ■ Operation S.A.F.E.

Developed in 1981, Operation S.A.F.E. is managed by the National Agricultural Aviation Research & Education Foundation (NAAREF). Every pilot and aerial applicator in the US is encouraged to participate in an Operation S.A.F.E. Fly-In clinic annually.

Operation S.A.F.E. clinics highlight the importance of operating procedures to ensure:

- Compliance with manufacturers' mixing rates, application recommendations, and the label requirements of agricultural crop protection products
- Selection of proper sprayer nozzles, pressure, and boom arrangement for best application while minimizing off-target movement
- Safety procedures in storing and handling agricultural crop protection products
- Compliance with flight safety procedures
- The importance of advance safety planning

“We thank BASF for making this incentive program available. This is fostering increased levels of professionalism in the industry, encouraging aerial applicators to either join our organization to access an extensive library of education and communication stewardship services or to equip their aircraft with new equipment to ensure precise applications.”

Andrew Moore,  
Executive Director,  
National Agricultural Aviation Association

### ■ Expert application is crucial

Aerial application is very common in the U.S.. However, some circumstances lead to high restrictions, for example, weather hazards, fixed obstacles, field size and shape, the distance from the point of application to the landing area, and the danger of contamination of nearby areas due to drift or misapplication.

Outcomes depend largely on the caliber of the personnel involved. In the Fly-In program, an experienced pilot and aerial applicator works closely with the farmer and develop a safety plan in advance, taking into account potential risks to people, other crops and the environment.

### ■ Advantages of aerial application

- Aerial application permits large and often remote areas to be treated rapidly, far faster than any other form of application. In the case of wet soil conditions, steep terrain or dense plant foliage, it is often the only viable method for pest treatment.
- When properly managed, it offers farmers access to crops where ground equipment cannot operate, quick application and speed of dispersal. Additionally, there is no soil compaction or yield loss due to wheel tracks.
- Due to its non-disruptive nature (treatment from above), aerial application is conducive to higher crop yields. This results in less land being used for agricultural production, helping to preserve important wetland and forest eco-systems, which are important habitats for threatened and endangered species, and for carbon sequestration.

## Did you know?

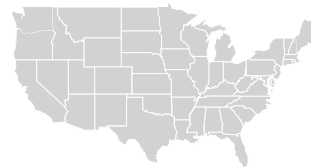
Aerial application is used about **20%** on commercial farms and nearly **100%** for forest protection applications.



In addition to agricultural aviation, the industry provides important **fire-fighting** and public health application services to **combat mosquitoes.**



According to National Agricultural Aviation Association records, aerial application operations are located in **46 states in the U.S.** – all but Alaska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.



The average aerial applicator pilot has 21.3 years of experience in the industry while the average aerial applicator operator has **27.4 years of experience.**



Agricultural pilots hold **commercial pilots' licenses.** They must also be registered as commercial pesticide applicators.

## CONTACTS

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