

# Feature Story



## Have you thanked your aerial applicator today?

### **BASF supports aerial applicators with scholarships and safety education efforts**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, December 7, 2017 — With the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) estimating about 20 percent of all applied crop protection products completed by air, in addition to almost 100 percent of forest protection applications, many growers throughout the country rely on agriculture pilots to help make on target applications.

These adrenaline junkies are called upon when growers don't want to damage their crops by applying crop protection products with heavy machinery. Aerial applications allow for pest treatments when wet soil conditions, roiling terrain or dense plant foliage prevents ground applications from occurring. Correctly making these essential air applications, can help growers achieve clean fields and higher yields.

The aerial applicators fly just above the field, as they make multiple sweeps to ensure the field is covered. Flying at nearly 150 mph and being mere feet above the ground has its risks and these aviators often encounter obstacles, such as meteorological towers, wind turbines, power lines and trees.

For nearly 10 years, BASF has supported the Operation S.A.F.E (self-regulating application and flight efficiency) Professional Application Analysis Clinics. The program encourages aerial applicators from around the country to participate in additional safety training through fly-in clinics. In addition, aerial applicators have their aircrafts analyzed by professionals to ensure consistent spray patterns and droplet size. 2017 saw another year of strong participation with approximately 350 aircraft pattern-tested across more than 20 states.

Supporting the next generation of aerial applicators is also important to educating safe aerial application. At the 51st annual NAAA 2017 Ag Aviation Expo kickoff breakfast, BASF, GE Aviation and Thrash Aircraft awarded five aspiring aerial applicators "Ag Wings of Tomorrow" scholarships. BASF awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to Jonathan Aslesen of Buffalo, Minnesota, and a \$5,000 scholarship to Colton Tidwell of Lonoke, Arkansas.

To learn more about BASF's involvement with Operation S.A.F.E., [click here](#) or [here](#).  
To learn more about NAAA visit [www.agaviation.org](http://www.agaviation.org).

### **About BASF's Crop Protection division**

With a rapidly growing population, the world is increasingly dependent on our ability to develop and maintain sustainable agriculture and healthy environments. BASF's Crop Protection division works with farmers, agricultural professionals, pest management experts and others to help make this possible. With their cooperation, BASF is able to sustain an active R&D pipeline, an innovative portfolio of products and services, and teams of experts in the lab and in the field to support customers in making their businesses succeed. In 2016, BASF's Crop Protection division generated sales of €5.6 billion. For more information, please visit us at [www.agriculture.basf.com](http://www.agriculture.basf.com) or on any of our social media channels.

### **About BASF**

BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has more than 17,500 employees in

#### **For more information contact:**

Barbara Aguiar  
BASF Corporation  
Tel: (919) 547-2305  
E-mail: [barbara.aguiar@basf.com](mailto:barbara.aguiar@basf.com)

BASF Corporation  
26 Davis Drive  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
<http://agproducts.basf.com>

North America, and had sales of \$16.2 billion in 2016. For more information about BASF's North American operations, visit [www.basf.us](http://www.basf.us).

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