

Fall 2011



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The Windssock

President's Report

Well the season is coming to an end and from what I have heard from others around Alberta the season turned out to be a pretty good one. We started out with a scare of the seed not getting in the ground, to a short season of spraying with more work than most could handle.

With Alberta's share of weather issues came some opportunities to promote our industry once again with Aggie Days at the Calgary Exhibition grounds and the Calgary Stampede. The Calgary Air Museum once again arranged the events and asked if the 4A's could man the booth and the AG Wagon for display. We of course said yes. It is a great opportunity for our industry. I would like to send out a thank you to the Calgary Air Museum for their great efforts to promote aviation and our industry as well. They show a lot of respect for what we do in these aircraft and they go through lots of effort to get the aircraft to these events. As well, I would like to thank everyone involved in manning the booth and the aircraft as well.

I was able to attend the Aggie days and the response from the young kids was great. The best thing was the fact that most of the teachers had a lot of questions and positive responses as well. Not only is it a great place to educate the young children but the educators who teach these kids as well. I believe this will go a long way with those who did attend and take interest.

The response at the Stampede was great again. There was, of course, the odd individual that knew more than everyone else but they at least got to see and hear about what we are doing on our part for the environment and the farmers. It is something that we need to continue to do.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the 4A's convention this year in Red Deer on November 7th and 8th, 2011. There will be the usual events and conversation along with a chance to catch up with friends you haven't seen in awhile. I would also like to encourage anyone who has thought about becoming a board member to step up to the plate this year and join the team. It is rewarding in the fact that you know you are doing your part to better our industry. And please, if anyone has any questions or concerns they would like addressed please give me or another board member a call anytime. That is why we volunteer to do this.

Cheers
Shaun Kinniburgh

Life Lessons

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.' 'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world.'

Puff! She's gone.

'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life.'

Puff! He's gone.

'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office after lunch.'

Moral of the story: Always let your boss have the first say.

Compensation for spray damage can be significant

RICK DANYLIUK, QC

Rick Danyliuk is a lawyer with McDougall Gauley LLP in Saskatoon. Reprinted from the Western Producer

Q: My neighbour had aerial spraying done this year. It looks to me like some of the spray drifted onto my land. Some of my crops were damaged and trees in my shelter-belt are dying.

Can I do anything about this?

A: Aerial crop spraying was once thought of as "unusual and dangerous" when it was first introduced into Canada. In the 1950s, it was done in Canada on a purely experimental basis.

A legal case from the mid-1960s called this operation unusual, but by 1975, courts had accepted crop dusting as an accepted part of agricultural practice in Canada.

The phenomenon of drift or overspraying is well established in legal literature. Liability for aerial operators not taking proper care was quickly established.

There were different theories as to how this liability could be established, but errors in the spraying operations themselves were

often the subject of damage awards.

Flying beyond the borders of a field while still emitting spray often caused damage. Also, spraying in conditions when it was too windy resulted in drift that would potentially damage the growing crops and other nearby plants. There were also cases where livestock was harmed as a result of negligent aerial chemical applications.

Damages can be substantial. In a 2003 Saskatchewan case, an adjoining farm's trees, ornamental shrubs and plants and shelterbelt were harmed by overspraying. The Queen's Bench judge assessed damages in excess of \$33,000.

One factor that has emerged in recent years is the advent of new technology making aerial crop spraying safer and more accurate. The use of GPS systems and new nozzles for the chemical spray means that most aerial spraying is done with a high degree of accuracy.

This has reduced the number of legal actions pertaining to aerial spraying in recent years.

Communication can help. Sometimes if you know spraying will be occurring, livestock can be moved out of the danger zone. Discussions about particularly vulnerable or delicate plants can take place and can influence the manner in which the spray applicator conducts his operations. Neighbours should talk to each other to ensure there are no misunderstandings or unfortunate events.

As well, provincial legislation has limited liability of some operators for aerial spray errors. The tort of nuisance has been limited or, in some cases, eliminated as a result of provincial protective legislation.

A marked departure from the normal precautions involved in such spraying is often required.

With the development of sophisticated equipment, spraying mishaps should be kept to a minimum.



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Celebrating 41 Years!

2011 AAAA Conference & Annual General Meeting

November 7-8, 2011

**Red Deer Lodge
4311 - 49 Avenue**

Red Deer, AB

The Alberta Aerial Applicators Association is proud to announce the 41st Conference & Annual General Meeting. Our program for 2011 consists of several re-certification credit sessions and special presentation, "The J.R. Matthew Experience – The Power of Positive Hypnosis!" at the banquet.

Registration, sponsorship and exhibitor registration forms are available for download at aaaa1@telusplanet.net.

Special room rates of \$110-135 have been negotiated with the Red Deer Lodge. Call (800) 661-1657 or (403) 346-8841 by October 14, 2011 to receive the guaranteed room rate. Be sure to mention you are an Alberta Aerial Applicators Association delegate!

Questions? Please contact Joy at (780) 413-0079 or aaaa1@telusplanet.net.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Monday, November 7, 2011

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Registration & Coffee with Exhibitors
Foyer & Pine Lake Room

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Wild Rose Protective Fund
Annual General Meeting
Red Deer Room

10:00 -10:30 a.m.
Coffee with Exhibitors
Pine Lake Room

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Credit Session 1
Red Deer Room

11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Exhibitor Presentations
Red Deer Room

12:30 - 1:15 p.m.
Lunch with Exhibitors
Pine Lake & Red Deer Rooms

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Credit Session 2
Red Deer Room

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Coffee with Exhibitors
Pine Lake Room

2:45 – 4:45 p.m.

AAAA Annual General Meeting
Red Deer Room

4:45 – 6:00 p.m.
Reception with Exhibitors
Pine Lake Room

6:00 -10:00 p.m.
Dinner, Auction & Entertainment
Red Deer Room

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast
Red Deer Room

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Credit Session 3
Red Deer Room

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break
Pine Lake Room

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Credit Session 4
Red Deer Room

11:15 a.m.
Closing
Red Deer Room

Credit Sessions will include:

Credit Session #1
Regulation Update (1 credit in Regulations)
Jock McIntosh & Vivianne Servant
Alberta Environment

Credit Session #2
Carbon Credit 101 (1 credit in Environment)
Robyn Kuhn
Alberta Climate Change Secretariat

Credit Session #3
Leadership & Conflict Resolution (1 credit in Human Health & Safety)
L.Col. John Casey, 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Canadian Air Force

Credit Session #4
TBA

More information on additional sessions will be available at www.albertaaerialapplicators.com as it becomes available.

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2011 AAAA Conference & AGM Speaker Profiles

Lieutenant Colonel J.R. Casey, CD

LCol Casey joined the Canadian Forces in 1989 as an Officer Cadet. He graduated from Collège militaire royal du Canada in 1994 with a Bachelor of Military and Strategic Studies.

Upon completion of pilot training, he received his wings and a promotion to Lieutenant in Nov 1995. Posted to 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in Edmonton, Alberta, he flew both the CH135 Twin Huey and the CH146 Griffon while serving as a Standards Officer and Night Visions (NVG) Goggle Specialist.

In 2001 he was posted to 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron where his duties included Instructor Pilot, Course Director, Standards instructor and Deputy Officer Commanding Aviation Tactics Flight while OPI for development and execution of the Advanced Tactical Aviation Course.

Promoted to Major in 2005, he was posted back to 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron serving as Air Command's first Officer Commanding the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle on OP ARCHER. Upon returning from Afghanistan, he assumed the role of Squadron Operations Officer until 2008.

In 2009 LCol Casey was promoted to his current rank, and posted to Canadian Forces Expeditionary Command HQ where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff - Air Operations.

LCol Casey has served on operational deployments to Haiti in 1995, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1998 and again 2000, and Afghanistan in 2006.

A graduate of the Army Operations

Course and the Joint Command and Staff Program, LCol Casey also holds a Masters of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

LCol Casey is married to Christa Greer who is the Director of Operations of the Northern Institute of Nanotechnology (NINT) within the National Research Council.

Captain Rod Dietzmann

Captain Dietzmann joined the Canadian Forces in 1989 as an Officer Cadet, under the Officer Candidate Training Program.

Upon completion of pilot training, he received his wings and a promotion to Lieutenant in May 1992. Posted to 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in Petawawa, Ontario, he flew the CH-135 Twin Huey and completed a tour in Somalia in 1993.

In 1994 he was promoted to Captain, and later that year left the CF under the Forces Reduction Program. In 1995, he started a 13-year career in the publishing industry, including over four years as owner and publisher of CanMedia Inc.

Captain Dietzmann joined the Cadet Instructor Cadre in 1995 and served as an air cadet officer in positions including Administration Officer, Training Officer, Deputy Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer at Langley, BC-based 746 RC(Air)C Squadron and St. Albert-based 533 RC(Air)C Squadron.

In 2007 Captain Dietzmann

joined the Primary Reserves with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. He completed his Reserve Basic Public Affairs Officer Course in June 2009 and went on to serve as a Public Affairs Officer in the Joint Task Force – Games Headquarters during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

Capt Dietzmann completed the CF's Resolving Conflict Effectively as well as the Conflict Management for Leaders courses; he will be taking the Workplace Relations Advisor Course this November; and is 408 Squadron's Deputy Harassment and Workplace Relations Advisor.

Captain Dietzmann is also the Public Affairs Officer for Edmonton-based 408 Squadron. He is married to Catharine, and is an active dad to his two daughters and two sons aged 14, 11, eight and five.

Robin Kuhn Senior Policy Advisor

Robyn Kuhn is a senior policy advisor with Alberta Environment's Climate Change Secretariat. She currently manages the carbon offset program and third party verification for greenhouse gas emissions in the province. Robyn is the lead for biological greenhouse gas emissions reductions opportunities and works closely with the Department of Agriculture to develop greenhouse gas emission reduction (carbon credit) opportunities for the agricultural sector. Robyn has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta and a Diploma of Journalism. In her spare time, she can be found walking her dog, and training and riding her horses.

2011 AAAA Conference & Annual General Meeting

JR MATTHEW - HYPNOTIST

Hypnotist JR Matthew travels 1000's of kilometers each year entertaining and helping 1000's of people from Coronach, SK to Yellowknife, NWT, North Vancouver Island to Winnipeg, MB, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina and all points around and in between.

His respect and appreciation for people is demonstrated each time he takes the stage and the show begins. Show material is kept fun and empowering and widely regarded as one of the best, funniest and cleanest shows around. Whether

you are in the show and protecting your friends from an Alien Invasion or strutting on the stage in a new special skit because you were "Born This Way" (Thanks to Lady Gaga for inspiring this skit with this great song!) or sitting next to someone who believes you are their very own life size teddy bear, everyone is in for a great laugh and great memories each time they recall what a great time they had.

*** More Videos on YouTube Channel - hypnotistjrmatthew ***

JR is based in Southern Alberta, and performs his brand of Hypnotic Entertainment for any size group across Western Canada. In recent years he has become a very popular entertainer for school leadership programs, grad functions, as well as corporate parties, and fundraisers. JR combines suggestions that produce a great show along with suggestions that allow the individuals in the show to have a more positive outlook on life's challenges. Just imagine what he has in store for the Alberta Aerial Applicators

Speaker Profiles cont.

Mr. Jock McIntosh Senior Policy Advisor

Jock McIntosh is a biologist and pesticide specialist with Alberta Environment. He administers provincial pesticide legislation and develops pesticide policies, standards, and programs; addresses issues; provides support to regional staff; and provides pesticide consultation services to a variety of provincial and federal agencies.

He is a graduate of the University of Calgary and a member of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. His interest in environmental science and regulation has spanned over the past 25 years and includes application, research, education and regulatory experience.

Ms. Vivianne Servant Pesticide Certification Specialist

Vivianne Servant has been the Pesticide Certification Specialist with

Alberta Environment for 15 years. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Teaching Certificate for Adult and Continuing Education both from the University of Alberta. She monitors and approves pesticide applicator and dispenser training, certification and recertification programs in Alberta. She's been a long time member of the National Working Group establishing pesticide education, and certification standards in Canada.

Previous to that, she was a pesticide inspector and investigator with Alberta Environment for 6 years. Prior to joining the Department of Environment, she worked for 8 years installing and maintaining landscapes and managing a tree farm.

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Crop Dusting: There's more to aerial application aviation than you ever imagined

The renegade crop-dusting pilot is a relic. Today, aerial application is a sophisticated and rapidly growing industry

From The Ground Up

The most wonderful thing about aviation is that there are so many different ways to fly. Gliders, helicopters, ultra-lights, biplanes. You name it. There isn't enough time in our lives to learn how to fly all of the aircraft available in the world. There are very few individuals across the globe that hold all certificates and are type rated in every single aircraft.

In my search for both interesting aircraft and exciting career opportunities, I have come across some very intriguing pilots, recruiters and organizations with great stories to tell. None, however, like the age-old discipline of aerial application.

When people think of an "ag pilot," they envision some old guy flying a biplane, with no radio and no cares, buzzing the landscape as his leather cap flaps in the wind. You remember the pilot from the movie *Fandango*—the guy who packs Judd Nelson's parachute with his dirty laundry? That guy. Ag pilots appear suddenly from below, climbing briskly and diving abruptly, as you consciously scan your path on a long cross-country. They show up out of nowhere, with no radio call, no nothin'. You're surprised, maybe even angry, as they dart out like a stray cat in front of your car. But you admire their cavalier, cowboy type of flight. It actually looks exciting.

The first known aerial application of agricultural materials was flown by John Chaytor, who, in 1906, spread seed over a swamped valley floor in Wairoa, New Zealand, using a hot air balloon with mobile tethers. The first known powered aircraft to spread agricultural materials was a U.S. Army Air Service Curtiss JN4, or "Jenny," piloted by John MacReady spraying lead arsenate from a makeshift metal hopper to kill catalpa sphinx caterpillars that had infested an orchard near Troy, Ohio in 1921. A subsequent study revealed that the pesky caterpillars were virtually wiped out from the application and "crop dusting" was born. The first commercial operation to lead the charge in aerial application was Continental Dusters, once part of Delta Airlines, using insecticides and fungicides to treat a host of crops and tackle insects and other infestations.

Today, organizations like the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) and the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA) are working successfully to change this stereotype of the cavalier ag pilot. The mission of the associations has always been to promote and foster the development of aerial application and the significance that it plays on a global scale. By promoting research, new technologies and new application techniques, the associations have changed what it means to be an ag pilot. Education, training and safety are their highest priorities.

We All Have To Eat

From the ground up, pilots who are currently entering this industry are trained in all aspects of aerial application, safe pesticide use and entomology, all the while minimizing

the risk to the environment. Without pesticide use, the world's food supply would be reduced by 40 to 50 percent, resulting in an increase in food prices estimated at more than 50 percent.

To produce future foods, fiber and bio-fuels, increased production on the land already in use will be critical. The use of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides has helped to increase crop yields, allowing more people and animals to be fed and clothed. And it has opened the way for advancements in alternative energies. High-yield agriculture benefits the environment by producing maximum crop yields from fewer acres. Aerial application is a critical component in maximizing this production from the land used. For example, corn fungicide applications during the "tasselling" or pollinating stage of corn growth will produce more corn for the use of bio-fuels, food growth and livestock.

It's estimated that, with the increase in the world's population, food, fiber and bio-fuel production will need to double by the year 2050 to meet the growing demand. Due to the large economic growth and middle class surges in India and China—accounting for almost 40 percent of the world's population—the demand for beef has grown tremendously. As the demand for meat rises, the demand for grain and protein feeds rises as well. It takes eight pounds of grain to make one pound of beef, so the demand for growth in grain production is at an unprecedented high.

The use and development of pesticides and other agricultural application materials comes with its share of environmental concerns.

Just don't reach for the ketchup or mayo

Reprinted from Alberta Farmer Express

Good news: they reduce blood pressure.

Bad news: not if they're french fries

The American Chemical Society reports that just a couple of servings of spuds a day reduces blood pressure almost as much as oatmeal without causing weight gain.

But don't reach for the ketchup, vinegar or mayonnaise. The research was not done with French fries, but with potatoes cooked without oil in a microwave oven.

Scientists reported on the research, done on a group of overweight people with high blood pressure, at the 242nd National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in August.

"The potato, more than perhaps any other vegetable, has an undeserved bad reputation that has led many health-conscious people to ban them

from their diet," Joe Vinson, PhD, who headed the research said in an ACS release

"Mention 'potato' and people think 'fattening, high-carbs, empty calories'. In reality, when prepared without frying and served without butter, margarine or sour cream, one potato has only 110 calories and dozens of healthful phytochemicals and vitamins. We hope our research helps to remake the potato's popular nutritional image."

Purple potatoes were used in the study because the pigment, or coloring material, in fruits and vegetables is especially rich in beneficial phytochemicals. Vinson said that he strongly suspects a future study using white potatoes, now in the planning stages, will produce similar results.

Vinson said that other studies have identified substances in potatoes with effects in the body similar to those of the well-known ACE-inhibitor medications, a mainstay for treating high blood pressure. Other phytochemicals in potatoes occur in amounts that rival broccoli, spinach and Brussels sprouts, and also may be involved, Vinson added.

Unfortunately for French fry and potato chip fans, those high cooking temperatures seem to destroy most of the healthy substances in a potato, leaving mainly starch, fat and minerals. Potatoes in the study were simply microwaved, which Vinson said seems to be the best way to preserve nutrients.

Funding for the study came from the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service State Cooperative Potato Research Program.



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Call for Volunteers!

The Alberta Aerial Applicators Association is seeking energetic volunteers to represent the association in various roles.

The time commitment varies and tasks can be assigned based on your availability. Take part in a unique experience by actively engaging in:

- ◆ Representing the AAAA at events such as The Calgary Stampede and Aggi-Days
- ◆ Newsletter contributions
- ◆ General help at the Annual General Meeting

Call For Nominations

Consider an exciting opportunity to help your Association and serve as a member of the AAAA Board of Directors. We are now accepting nominations! The new Board will be installed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 7th, 2011. Multiple director's positions are available for a term of two years.

Let your voice be heard:

- ◆ with Government, Industry and the Public
- ◆ Help decide what credit sessions are provided at the yearly AGM

- ◆ Help determine the future of Aerial Application in Alberta

Should you be interested in participating, would like additional information contact the office at (780) 413-0079 or aaaa1@telusplanet.net!

**Without Volunteers
there is no
Association!**

Cont from page 6

Spray drift, soil contamination, water pollution and occupational disease (often in the form of increased risk to cancer) are a few. Increased environmental regulations in recent years have reduced emissions and dangerous contaminations. In order to stay current, aircraft and equipment in the ag industry are state-of-the-art. Crop-dusting planes today have on-board computers that monitor the rate of application and GPS units to make each field pass more accurate. The days of attaching a 50-gallon drum of chemicals to a rickety airplane are over, as the aircraft today have sophisticated spraying capabilities to improve efficiencies and reduce environmental impact.

Recent technology developments such as GPS swath guidance, aerial imaging and prescription mapping and dispersal systems, have revolutionized the discipline. Fertilizer prices have increased due to the

demand, and operators and regulators are looking for a balance between environmental impact and operation cost. Therefore, manufacturers of application systems and aircraft are designing equipment that is aerodynamically "clean," including optimal boom and nozzle placements resulting in a more predictable spray pattern that appeases both the client and the regulatory agencies. GPS developers are producing GPS systems that provide guidance accuracy within three feet and guide the pilot using a light bar and electronic mapping system. Highly targeted infrared aerial technology has been developed that is essential in field mapping and additional research and development of variable rate nozzles is helping growers achieve higher yields, quality and profit. Also, electrostatic targeting dispersal equipment is starting to make its way into development.

So, now that you are intrigued with the agricultural industry, the technology and the growing need for aerial application, what's next? You want to be an ag pilot? Ag pilots are trained from the ground up, literally, loading the aircraft for the day, understanding the intricacies of the application systems and aircraft, all the while obtaining the training and flight certification to earn the insurance for a career position. This process takes time, however with the increase in demand for food, fiber and bio-fuels, there is plenty of opportunity out there. Pay rates can vary from one operator to another. For newer pilots, you can get paid a percentage of the gross application or per-acre rate. Your overall experience, your total time in specific aircraft and knowledge of the application processes will dictate your success as an ag pilot.