PESTICIDE APPLICATION USING UAVS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Who regulates pesticides and pesticide applicators in Mississippi?

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce – Bureau of Plant Industry (the Bureau) is the regulatory agency responsible for regulating pesticides and pesticide applicators in the state of Mississippi. With the popularity of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), there is a need to communicate what is required to legally apply pesticides, seed, and fertilizer using UAV equipment.

2. What is required to make pesticide applications using UAVs?

All UAV operators making applications of pesticides, seed, and fertilizer must first meet all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements. This includes FAA Part 107 and 137 certificates, waivers, aircraft registrations, medical certificates, etc. Upon meeting all federal requirements, please contact the Bureau to secure your state credentials.

3. Who do I contact at the Bureau and what is required?

Hannah Ferguson, Director of Aerial Licensing (662-325-3390) will walk you through the following steps and provide required forms which can be located at:

https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/bpi/agricultural-aviation/

Step 1: Obtain Applicator's License for the business to engage in aerial application.

- Establish proof of residence.
- Have available the services of one registered aircraft
- Submit proof of financial responsibility
- Register all aircrafts and pilots.
- Present proof of FAA certification

Step 2: Acquire Pilot's License (person engaged in agricultural aircraft operations).

- Pilot must pass a minimum of three exams. The passing score for all exams is 70%
- Exams include General Standards, Aerial Application, and category exam in all areas and site types in which the business operates
- Present proof of FAA certification

4. Who do I contact for study material to prepare for the Bureau's exams?

Beverly Catchot, Mississippi Pesticide Safety Education Program Manager (662-325-0795 or bdc12@msstate.edu) at Mississippi State University, can help you with ordering study materials.

5. What is Mississippi doing to stay informed on research, pesticide labels, FAA, and EPA regulations?

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce established a UAV Task Force in 2023 which is made up of Mississippi State University, Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Delta Council, Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council, and Bureau Advisory Board members all interested in providing current and reliable information.

A person who applies pesticides without the appropriate licenses is subject to civil penalties.

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce - Bureau of Plant Industry
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