



**For Immediate Release**

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**Matt Hovdenes of Casselton, North Dakota Elected 2025 NAAA Vice President**

ALEXANDRIA, VA – January 8, 2025 – The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) is pleased to announce that Matt Hovdenes of Right Way Ag, an aerial application operator in Casselton, North Dakota, has been elected vice president of NAAA for 2025. Hovdenes’ passion for being an ag pilot started in college, and he treated his first crops in 2002 after earning a degree in ag aviation.

Hovdenes founded Right Way Ag in 2019. What began as a single airplane operation has since expanded to two Air Tractor 502s. Today, Hovdenes operates as the primary pilot for his business, serving specialty crops like potatoes, sugar beets, and edible beans, as well as staple crops such as corn and soybeans.

Hovdenes has served on the NAAA Board, represented both Nebraska Aviation Trades Association and the North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association for multiple years, and has been a board member for the National Agricultural Aviation Research and Education Foundation (NAAREF), serving as its president from 2021-2022. He has chaired NAAREF’s Program Development Committee and NAAA’s Safety and Federal Aviation Regulations Committee.

In addition to pilot safety, Hovdenes has been a strong advocate for expanding membership in industry associations, like NAAA and the North Dakota AAA. “Without these associations, many of us wouldn’t have jobs today and we need to actively engage with regulatory bodies to ensure that ag pilot needs are represented in policy discussions,” Hovdenes emphasizes.

Outside of his professional life, Hovdenes is a devoted family man. Married to Hilary since 2002, they have twins, Emma and Anders, who are juniors in high school and both active in sports and community activities. Hovdenes is also a defensive line coach for the hometown varsity football team, and he cherishes the opportunity to engage with his children and contribute to their development.

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*The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) represents the interests of the 1,560 small businesses in the U.S., whose owners and pilots are licensed as professional commercial aerial applicators that use aircraft to enhance food, fiber, and biofuel production, protect forestry and control health-threatening pests. For more information, please visit [AgAviation.org](http://AgAviation.org).*