



Jeff Farr of Farr Air Inc.

Reviewing the new Training Courses

by **THRUSH**
A I R C R A F T

Yorkton Aircraft Service: You are an experienced Ag pilot, so you weren't there for training, what role did you have?

Jeff Farr: I was there to critique their new training program and syllabus before the full launch.

YAS: Who was in the group and did they have roles different from you?

JF: There were 8 of us in the beta class. All were current or past Ag pilots, including two flight instructors.

YAS: Was it a good group? Different backgrounds, different points of view?

JF: Yes it was a great group. Some first time turbine pilots and first time Thrush pilots. I was the only full time Thrush Ag pilot.

YAS: We understand there were some other professional aviators there that weren't ag pilots. What was their purpose and what kind of feedback did you hear them give Thrush?

JF: Wayne Handley is a professional Airshow Aerobatic Pilot. Many Ag Air individuals are familiar with him as he delivered the Turn Smart video to this industry. He got to critique the Thrush Flight characteristics and was very impressed. Robert McCurdy was the turbine instructor at a now closed ag school. Both guys provided great input.

YAS: Who was doing the training?

JF: Robert Garrett is Thrush's Training Director. With a background in Ag aviation and previous Ag school training experience., he did an excellent job.

YAS: Was this a worthwhile exercise for you and for Thrush to do?

JF: Yes this was excellent. I think we all gave similar feedback and the course is right on track. Of course, we gave them some tweaking ideas, but other than that the course is excellent. I learned more than I critiqued so it was a very worthy exercise for me!

YAS: In general terms, is Thrush on the right track? What do they need to do to nail it? Would you recommend the training to others?

JF: I booked my son to go down and take the course this month (March). He has already taken one turbine course but I felt this would be very worthwhile. The recurrent training portion was excellent also. I recommend the recurrent training to any Ag pilot, regardless of what model of plane they fly. One of my other turbine pilots is also going down this month to practice emergency procedures in the simulator.

YAS: Besides the obvious benefit of added safety for the industry, can you name two other benefits this training will provide to the industry?

JF: They are talking better rates on insurance. This course will help you become a better, more competent professional pilot, better prepared for emergency situations. You can practice real failures on the simulator without consequence. The facilities, equipment & dual control plane are great. It is excellent, I highly recommend.