

A white Thrush aircraft with red wingtips and a black nose section is flying over a green field. The aircraft has "THRUSH" written on the side and "170000" on the tail. The background shows a rolling green landscape with a line of trees in the distance.

# Ag Aviation: an Up-Close Look at the Field

The Ag Aviation industry has come a long way since early “crop dusters” were heralded for death-defying maneuvers while dusting crops with dry chemicals — often in time-worn aircraft crudely equipped for the job. Today, Agricultural Aviation is a respected industry consisting of over 1,300 U.S. businesses providing what is now called aerial application. It’s an industry involving highly trained professionals who deploy sophisticated aircraft for critical missions in support of high-yield agriculture, forest protection and insect control. And it’s an industry in which Thrush Aircraft is proud to be a major player.



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

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# AG AVIATION. NURTURING CROPS. PROTECTING FORESTS. KILLING MOSQUITOS. ALL BEFORE LUNCH.

Nothing's more important than food for the table. And that's only partly why Ag Aviation is such a fundamentally crucial industry. Aerial application of crop protection products — the fastest and most efficient method — helps maximize annual yield on some 71 million acres of American cropland devoted to food, fiber and biofuel. In addition, Ag Aviation provides effective means for feeding fish, firefighting, and mosquito control in the interest of public health.

**Equipment for some serious flying.** A far cry from the surplus WWII trainers often used in the early days of crop spraying, today's aircraft are sophisticated, highly maneuverable, and specially designed for the task. Turbine-powered and carrying hundreds of gallons in their hoppers, today's ag aircraft set high standards for safety. And GPS, GIS, and spray calibration technologies ensure consistent pinpoint accuracy on every pass.

**Good work if you can get it.** With world population growth and increasing demand for agricultural products, Ag Aviation is growing, and providing compelling career opportunities for exceptional pilots. Most ag pilots have thousands of hours of experience and their flying skills are impeccable. Aerial application is one of the most demanding career choices for a pilot, but also one of the most challenging — and satisfying. For information about ag pilot requirements and more, visit [agaviation.org](http://agaviation.org), the official site of the National Agricultural Aviation Association.

**Let's talk.** As manufacturers of a full line of aerial application aircraft to fit virtually any size and type of operation, we're vitally interested in the future of Ag Aviation. And we know a thing or two about it. So we'd be happy to tell you more about our profession — and, of course, our aircraft — any time. As we say back in Georgia, feel free to give us a shout.



**Where innovation is nothing new.**

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