





### Drone Spraying in Various Crops By Dr. Randy R. Price and Al Orgeron LSU AgCenter Dean Lee Research and Extension Center / St. Gabriel Sugarcane Research Station, Alexandria, LA



### Summary:

- Types of drones
- Test in Soybeans
- Test in Sugarcane
- If we have time:
  - Drift
  - Rules
  - Operation S.A.F.E.

### Sprayer Drones Currently Available:

DJI T40:

Hylio:

XAG P100 Pro:









# Soybean Tests:

# For Testing to Two Large Spray Drones (10-15 L) were Constructed with Different Spray Systems

- Cover 2 acres per Battery in about 6 to 10 minutes @ 2 GPA
  - 13 to 20 ft. swath width
  - Operate 11 to 18 MPH
- <u>Two different application systems</u>:
  - Standard Fixed Orifice Hydraulic Nozzles:
    - AIXR11002 nozzles:
  - Centrifugal Nozzles:
    - Very hard to use and mount on a drone: need cutoffs and special systems to regulate flow





### **Other Spray Systems Tested:**

#### Herbi Nozzles:





Boomless Pasture Nozzles:





Boomed Hydraulic Orifice Nozzles:



Boom Rotary Nozzles:







0 26 52 78 104 130 - Curve1 - Curve2 - Curve3 - Curve4 - Curve5

# **Example Flight:**



# Spray Droplet Spectrum of Each Spray System:









#### AIXR11002 Nozzles:



#### -1.0 with 1.370 GPA & VMD = 419



0.0 with 1.681 GPA & VMD = 281



### **Canopy Infiltration Test in Soybeans:**





# Testing in Sugarcane:

# **Ripener Coverage Tests:**

- Three fields sprayed with both AIXR and Centrifugal nozzles to compare application efficiency:
- Looking for several things:
  - Coverage
  - Evenness
  - Border efficiency



# **Centrifugal Nozzles:**





### **AIXR11002 Nozzles:**



### Centrifugal:



C.V. = 16.1%
GR Diff Value = 11.9

### Comparison: AIXR11002:



CV = 13.1%
GR Diff Value = 12.6

# Third Field Sprayed with AIXR11002 (faster speed / less Ripener):





### Drift Test:

Drift Pole

- Three Drift Poles placed downwind at 20, 50, and 250 ft. with droplet cards.
- 12 Passes Up Wind from Drift Poles in a Stiff 5 to 7 MPH crosswind at 2 GPA:
- Pasture grass surface
  2 GPA / 11 MPH





### **Drift Pole Test:**



### AIXR11002 Nozzles:



### Operation S.A.F.E. – Get Your Drone Tested!









# Pattern Testing:

### Test for two properties:

- Swath width
- Droplet spectrum (size, distribution, etc.)
- Additional properties:
  - Multiple pass C.V.
  - Field C.V.





# Products Changing Very Quickly in Size and Type:



Only 2 motors:





# The End

### **Questions?**

### Thanks for Your Support!!!





### Multi-Pass Tests Example on AIXR11002 Nozzles:

- Tested at 13 ft., 20 ft., and 26 ft. swath widths
- No (low) wind conditions< 3 MPH</li>
- 11 MPH travel speed
  2/3 max speed for that drone
  10 ft\_flying height
- 10 ft. flying height

13 ft S.W. C.V. – 0.17 to 0.22





26 ft S.W. C.V. – 0.26 to 0.28



### Licenses Needed to Use Sprayer Drones:

- FAA (Federal):
  - Part 107
  - Part 137
- LDAF (State):
  - Commercial pesticide applicators license
  - Aerial application license
  - drone license
- Business Insurance:
  - In case of drift claim or accident

# **Operation Differences -Wind Direction Effect - 6 MPH:**

#### 2 GPA Extra Coarse -Into the Wind (6 MPH)

2 GPA Extra Coarse -With the Wind (6 MPH)

#### 2 GPA Extra Coarse -With the Wind (6 MPH)





Individual Pattern - Run A 8000 6000 4000 2000

		MA		
1		人上	k.	
	20	40 Foot	60	80

0-

	25	<del>0</del>
Coeffic	cient of Variance	ce (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Track
13	0.68	0.68
14	0.51	0.50
15	0.32	0.29
16	0.14	0.05
17	0.15	0.05
18	0.16	0.10
19	0.16	0.12
20	0.17	0.13
21	0.17	0.14
22	0.18	0.15
23	0.19	0.13
24	0.20	0.12
25	0.22	0.11
26	0.24	0.12
27	0.25	0.14
28	0.26	0.16
29	0.26	0.17
30	0.25	0.17
31	0.23	0.16
32	0.21	0.16
33	0.20	0.16
34	0.20	0.16
35	0.20	0.17
36	0.21	0.18
37	0.21	0.19

	Swath Width (	t.)
	14	+
Coeffic	cient of Varianc	e (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Track
2	NaN	NaN
3	NaN	NaN
4	5.26	5.24
5	2.01	2.08
6	1.20	1.23
7	0.78	0.80
8	0.44	0.47
9	0.08	0.02
10	0.08	0.03
11	0.09	0.05
12	0.11	0.09
13	0.15	0.14
14	0.21	0.19
15	0.26	0.25
16	0.31	0.30
17	0.35	0.35
18	0.40	0.40
19	0.45	0.45
20	0.49	0.49
21	0.54	0.54
22	0.58	0.58
23	0.64	0.64
24	0.66	0.66
25	0.71	0.71
26	0.75	0.74

	14	÷
Coeffic	cient of Varianc	e (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Track
2	NaN	NaN
3	NaN	NaN
4	5.79	7.03
5	2.02	2.11
6	1.20	1.24
7	0.78	0.82
8	0.47	0.50
9	0.23	0.22
10	0.21	0.20
11	0.13	0.12
12	0.10	0.09
13	0.12	0.13
14	0.19	0.19
15	0.27	0.27
16	0.35	0.34
17	0.40	0.40
18	0.47	0.47
19	0.51	0.50
20	0.54	0.53
21	0.56	0.56
22	0.58	0.58
23	0.62	0.62
24	0.63	0.63
25	0.67	0.67
26	0.71	0.71

### **Operation Differences (cont.) -**Wind Direction Effect - 6 MPH:

#### 2 GPA Extra Fine -Into the Wind (6 MPH)



With the Wind (6 MPH)



5 GPA Extra Fine - 5 GPA Extra Coarse -With the Wind (6 MPH)



ſ	20	÷
Coeffi	cient of Variand	ce (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Track
8	1.43	1.42
9	1.05	1.04
10	0.77	0.77
11	0.54	0.54
12	0.30	0.29
13	0.12	0.05
14	0.11	0.06
15	0.12	0.07
16	0.12	0.09
17	0.10	0.07
18	0.11	0.08
19	0.11	0.06
20	0.09	0.08
21	0.09	0.11
22	0.09	0.12
23	0.12	0.12
24	0.13	0.13
25	0.13	0.14
26	0.13	0.15
27	0.12	0.15
28	0.11	0.15
29	0.12	0.15
30	0.12	0.16
31	0.12	0.17
32	0.12	0.17

	Swath Width (	π.)
	14	÷
Coeffic	cient of Variand	ce (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Tra
2	NaN	NaN
3	NaN	NaN
4	5.41	5.26
5	1.98	2.03
6	1.18	1.21
7	0.77	0.79
8	0.44	0.46
9	0.10	0.08
10	0.09	0.07
11	0.09	0.05
12	0.08	0.04
13	0.07	0.05
14	0.10	0.10
15	0.17	0.17
16	0.25	0.24
17	0.31	0.30
18	0.36	0.35
19	0.39	0.38
20	0.40	0.40
21	0.41	0.41
22	0.42	0.42
23	0.43	0.44
24	0.43	0.43
25	0.45	0.44
26	0.45	0.45

	Swath Width (f	t.)
	15	<b>+</b>
Coeffic	cient of Varianc	e (C.V.)
Swath Width	Back / Forth	Race Tra
3	NaN	NaN
4	NaN	10.00
5	2.63	2.67
6	1.44	1.46
7	0.96	0.96
8	0.62	0.63
9	0.30	0.31
10	0.05	0.07
11	0.07	0.09
12	0.07	0.07
13	0.04	0.05
14	0.06	0.05
15	0.11	0.10
16	0.18	0.17
17	0.23	0.23
18	0.29	0.29
19	0.34	0.33
20	0.38	0.37
21	0.41	0.41
22	0.45	0.43
23	0.48	0.46
24	0.49	0.47
25	0.52	0.50
26	0.54	0.52
27	0.55	0.54

### **T40 Pattern and Swath Width:**

### Very wide pattern

- 40 ft. total pattern
- <u>30 to 35 ft. swath width</u>
- Using extra fine double cutter wheel using extra fine speed setting
- 15 ft. flying height
  - Lower altitude (5 6 ft.)
     was only 25 ft.



# Characteristics of Centrifugal versus Standard Nozzle System:

### <u>Centrifugal/Rotary Nozzles</u>:

- 300 350 um maximum droplet size (or smaller) based on rotation speed and disk type.
- Higher flying height needed to increase canopy penetration and create a more uniform application.
- Drift was <u>not more</u> then AIXR11002 nozzles (and may actually be less)
- Slight less swath width than under-themotor standard AIXR11002 tips.

### Standard AIXR11002 Nozzles:

- Application height did not affect uniformity as much.
- Slightly wider application width than centrifugal nozzles
  - 25% in this case.
- Not as good for canopy infiltration
  - Larger droplets, less got to the bottom.
- Better C.V. on multi-pass test across wider range of environmental conditions.

### Long Distance Drift Pole Test:

- Crosswind drift pole placed 300 ft. downwind from flying path
- Cards Placed at 4, 8, 12, and 16 ft. heights
- Three Reps and one calibration (no spray for at least 10 minutes time)





- <u>USDA Leading Edge Drone:</u> <u>Spray Properties</u>:
- 2 GPA / TT11001
- 20 ft. Swath
- 12 Passes
- 74F / 74%RH
- Water Only
- Analyze with Droplet Scan®

### Long Distance Drift Results – Test Cards and GPA:



<u>Average GPA Drift @ 300 ft.</u>: 0.00075 GPA (< 0.001 GPA)

### **Test Cards Results – Number of Droplets:**



### Drift Pole:

- Airplane: Turbine Thrush
- Release Height: 15 20 ft.
- Winds: 7 to 9 MPH (max for spraying)
- Drift Pole: 300 ft. downwind
- Four passes back and forth
  2 GPA / 40 psi





Ground Level – Card Every 5 ft.

45 ft.

# Effect of Flying Height on Centrifugal Nozzles for Multi-Pass Consistency:

- Centrifugal drone flown at two different heights in multi-pass test:
  - Swath width 4 m
  - 2 Nozzles / 0.35 GPM per nozzle / 11 MPH / 2.25 GPA / Regular GPS

### Results:



Higher Altitude – 15 to 20 ft.



Lower Altitude – 4 to 6 ft. High Altitude Passes



Low Altitude Passes



### Getting Plot Data Out of Images:

#### Georectification and Assembly Program - Agisoft



#### Straighten and Crop: Microsoft Image Comp.



#### Splitter Program: PhotoScape



#### 1512 Individual Plot Images





View

**Output and Resultant Images:** 

 $\times$ 

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#### Drone Conversion File Edit Program: 🖷 RGB Drone Imagery Analysis Program – п × Threshold Values for Removing Light Color Soils in Images Light Soils Typically Removed by setting three color values high (such as >150, etc.) Wetness will bring Blue value down - Adjust as Needed Red (0 - 255) Green (0 - 255) Blue (0 - 255) 150 150 150 Threshold Values for Removing Shadows in Images Shadows: Put in Lower Color Values to Remove (such as R.G.B < 60, etc.) Adjust as Needed Red (0 - 255) Green (0 - 255) Blue (0 - 255) 60 60 60 \*Use ImageJ (or other program) to determine actual pixel values Image Parameter Application Exit Analysis Box Size Width 73 Upper Left Lower Right Width 700 1200 Depth 286 Load and Process Image According to Checked Box Below Depth 200 700 Images 1512 Uncheck to Use Partial Image Note: new images and text results saved on desktop in "ImageFolder" Analysis Box from Parameters Calculate Histogram values for Image while not including Red Pixels from the Soil and Shadow functions below (boxes for soil and/or shadow Exclusion must be checked below) Red 55.8 Green 44.6 Blue 35.8 Percent Plants: Green-Red: -11.2 GRVI: -0.111 VARI: -0.173 % Background Stripped Convert Soil background in an RGB Image into Solid RED to NOT BE INCLUDED in histogram function or manual stripping with histogram function in GIMP Program Convert Shadows in RGB Image into Solid RED (0.0.255) to NOT BE INCLUDED in histogram analysis or for manual stripping analysis in GIMP Program with Histogram Function Threshold Image to See Area Being Anlayzed (Lower Blue Threshold Black (0) and Higher Than Blue Threshold White (255)) 127 Threshold (0 - 255) 62634 Threshold Pixel Count - White Convert RGB Image to Green Minus Red Image and Rescale from 0 to 255 (Maximum range) into green band for histogram analysis in another program Convert RGB Image into VARI Index and Rescale from 0 to 255 (Maximum range) into Green Band Strip blue soil background out while leaving green and red values in a Heat Scale Agisoft Image Strip Blue Soil Background from Green - Red Heat Scale Image and make a 0 to 1 MASK Image that Can be Multiplied Against RGB Image to Remove Soil Background Convert soil in an NGB Image into Blue for stripping analysis with GIMP Program Histogram function (set for blue histogram band < 254 to not add in analysis) - Set Green and Blue to 150 or so, and anything higher will set to pure blue Process took about 60 minutes to perform (first time)

Red Green Blue GR-RD GRVI VARI %Plants %Background 46.4 40.2 29.4 -6.2 -0.07 -0.11 150.00 0.00 45.3 40.0 29.0 -5.3 -0.06 -0.09 150.00 0.00 45.8 40.2 29.2 -5.5 -0.06 -0.10 150.00 0.00 50.9 42.5 31.8 -8.4 -0.09 -0.14 150.00 0.00 54.7 44.7 34.0 -10.0 -0.10 -0.15 150.00 0.00 54.4 44.3 33.6 -10.1 -0.10 -0.15 150.00 0.00 52.5 43.2 33.1 -9.2 -0.10 -0.15 150.00 0.00 51.7 43.1 32.9 -8.6 -0.09 -0.14 150.00 0.00 52.2 43.9 33.1 -8.3 -0.09 -0.13 150.00 0.00 53.3 44.8 33.8 -8.5 -0.09 -0.13 150.00 0.00 54.4 45.3 34.7 -9.1 -0.09 -0.14 150.00 0.00 54.7 45.0 34.9 -9.6 -0.10 -0.15 150.00 0.00 55.4 46.0 36.0 -9.4 -0.09 -0.14 150.00 0.00 53.4 44.8 35.1 -8.6 -0.09 -0.14 150.00 0.00 50.1 43.1 32.5 -7.0 -0.08 -0.12 150.00 0.00 47.4 42.0 31.4 -5.5 -0.06 -0.09 150.00 0.00 55.2 45.7 35.9 -9.5 -0.09 -0.15 150.00 0.00 43.2 39.8 28.6 -3.4 -0.04 -0.06 150.00 0.00 45.3 41.4 29.7 -3.9 -0.05 -0.07 150.00 0.00 45.4 41.3 29.6 -4.1 -0.05 -0.07 150.00 0.00 45.8 41.9 29.7 -4.0 -0.05 -0.07 150.00 0.00 43.8 40.8 29.5 -3.0 -0.04 -0.05 150.00 0.00 37.8 36.7 25.7 -1.2 -0.02 -0.02 150.00 0.00 27.6 30.2 19.5 2.5 0.04 0.07 149.99 0.00 39.2 37.3 26.4 -1.9 -0.02 -0.04 150.00 0.00 37.5 37.2 25.6 -0.4 0.00 -0.01 150.00 0.00 43.6 41.0 29.5 -2.6 -0.03 -0.05 150.00 0.00 47.3 42.9 31.7 -4.5 -0.05 -0.08 149.97 0.00 51.9 45.4 35.0 -6.6 -0.07 -0.11 150.00 0.00 52.3 45.7 35.7 -6.6 -0.07 -0.11 150.00 0.00 51.2 44.5 34.1 -6.7 -0.07 -0.11 150.00 0.00 50.3 43.7 33.4 -6.6 -0.07 -0.11 150.00 0.00 55.7 46.1 36.5 -9.6 -0.09 -0.15 150.00 0.00 55 2 46 1 36 1 -9 1 -0 09 -0 14 150 00 0 00 Ln 1, Col 1 66,849 characters 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-8



### **Remote Sensing Activities:**

- Weekly Assessment of Soybean fields for Chlorosis effects using remote sensing drones:
  - Flew two large production fields every two weeks (9 dates) during the growing season to record high chlorosis effects from manganese
  - 200 acres
  - Evaluate for quantitative change





Blue GR BR GR2B GRVI VARI %Plants %Background pRed pGree 76.8 98.9 57.3 22.1 -19.5 61.1 0.126 0.186 67.48 32.5252.8 65.9 42.1 13.0 -10.8 34.5 0.110 0.170 1.1 94.1 54.2 21.0 -18.9 58.8 0.125 0.186 64.18 35.8255.0 67.9 43.5 13.0 -11.5 36.0 0.106 0.163 69.4 89.9 52.1 20.4 -17.3 55.1 0.128 0.191 61.85 38.1555.4 68.9 44.1 13.5 -11.3 36.0 0.108 0.168 88.2 51.0 20.0 -17.2 54.3 0.128 0.190 61.90 38.1053.8 66.6 42.4 12.9 -11.4 35.6 0.107 0.165 5 88.5 49.2 21.0 -18.4 57.7 0.135 0.196 64.69 35.3152.0 64.6 40.1 12.6 -11.9 36.4 0.108 0.165 4 94.4 54.5 20.0 -19.9 59.8 0.118 0.175 64.68 35.1243.5 53.4 34.4 9.9 -9.1 28.1 0.102 0.158 2 98.6 56.6 20.5 -21.5 63.5 0.116 0.170 65.88 34.1251.3 62.6 39.8 11.3 -11.5 34.3 0.099 0.153 7 95.3 55.8 19.6 -19.9 59.5 0.115 0.170 62.28 37.7256.4 69.2 44.1 12.8 -12.3 37.4 0.102 0.158 -16.1 54.7 0.145 0.214 66.15 33.8550.8 63.9 41.2 13.1 -9.6 32.4 0.114 0.178 4.1 87.7 48.1 23.6 -16.0 55.6 0.155 0.227 66.27 33.7349.7 63.5 39.9 13.8 -9.9 33.5 0.121 0.18 53 89,5 48,7 24,2 - 16,5 57,3 0,157 0,229 68,88 31,1246,6 59,8 37,1 13,2 -9,5 32,2 0,124 0,191 59,7 92,0 51,1 22,4 -18,6 59,6 0,138 0,202 65,53 34,4744,2 55,2 35,2 11,0 -9,0 29,0 0,111 0,171 66.4 89.5 51.4 23.1 -15.0 53.2 0.148 0.221 66.18 33.8247.8 60.6 39.5 12.8 -8.3 29.5 0.118 0.186 65.5 88.6 49.9 23.0 -15.6 54.3 0.149 0.221 64.79 35.2149.4 62.6 40.1 13.1 -9.4 31.9 0.117 0.182 54.2 87.1 49.0 22.9 -15.2 53.4 0.152 0.224 64.85 35.1550.7 64.3 41.2 13.6 -9.5 32.7 0.118 0.184 55.5 88.6 48.6 23.1 -16.9 56.8 0.150 0.219 67.32 32.6848.8 61.7 38.6 12.8 -10.3 33.3 0.116 0.17 68.9 90.7 52.7 21.8 -16.2 54.2 0.136 0.204 68.65 31.3543.4 54.1 35.9 10.7 -7.5 25.7 0.110 0.174 69.0 91.2 52.4 22.2 -16.5 55.3 0.139 0.207 68.35 31.6549.5 61.8 40.7 12.3 -8.8 29.9 0.110 0.174 67.9 90.0 50.5 22.1 -17.4 57.0 0.140 0.206 65.93 34.0753.5 66.9 42.9 13.3 -10.6 34.6 0.111 0.17 2.5 85.3 48.2 22.8 -14.3 51.4 0.154 0.229 66.14 33.8649.8 63.4 41.0 13.6 -8.7 31.1 0.120 0.189 87.9 47.8 23.6 -16.5 56.7 0.155 0.226 67.41 32.5948.1 61.7 38.4 13.5 -9.7 33.0 0.123 0.18 5.3 89.0 47.7 23.7 -17.6 58.9 0.154 0.222 69.18 30.8243.5 55.6 34.4 12.1 -9.1 30.3 0.122 0.187 68.6 91.6 48.2 23.1 -20.3 63.7 0.144 0.206 68.78 31.2240.4 49.7 31.5 9.3 -8.8 27.0 0.103 0.159 72.5 94.9 50.9 22.4 -21.6 65.6 0.134 0.193 64.95 35.0549.5 61.3 37.9 11.8 -11.6 34.9 0.107 0.162 8 91 5 50 0 23 7 -17 8 59 3 0 149 0 217 66 41 33 5949 0 62 0 39 0 13 0 -10 0 33 0 0 117 0 180 52.3 20.2 -21.6 63.4 0.121 0.175 61.22 38.7856.5 69.4 42.2 12.9 -14.3 41.6 0.103 0.154 1.2 92.0 51.4 18.8 -21.8 62.4 0.114 0.165 59.16 40.8456.3 68.8 41.4 12.5 -14.9 42.3 0.100 0.150 56.5 18.0 -23.4 64.9 0.101 0.148 60.87 39.1351.1 61.8 37.8 10.7 -13.4 37.4 0.095 0.142 8.5 59.1 16.2 -23.2 62.6 0.090 0.133 57.45 42.5554.1 65.2 40.7 11.1 -13.3 37.8 0.093 0.142 55 4 19 1 -19 3 57 6 9 113 9 169 63 24 36 7654 5 66 8 42 5 12 3 -12 1 36 4 9 101 9 156 0.3 52.9 18.7 -18.8 56.2 0.115 0.171 61.83 38.1756.5 69.3 43.8 12.8 -12.8 38.3 0.101 0.155 70.6 89.3 52.8 18.7 -17.8 54.3 0.117 0.174 61.66 38.3458.7 72.2 45.6 13.5 -13.1 39.7 0.103 0.158 52.3 18.0 -19.7 57.5 0.111 0.164 61.25 38.7554.1 66.1 41.0 11.9 -13.2 38.3 0.099 0.15 17 7 \_18 9 55 4 8 188 8 162 61 85 38 9539 9 48 9 31 8 9 8 \_8 1 25 2 8 181 8 \*

### Low Altitude Remote Sensing Approach:

### Low altitude drone test:

- Fly at low altitude and record imagery data (several hours)
- Download to computer
- Analysis with program 30 minutes





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	@, 21%

# Drone Demonstration at Multiple Field and Youth Career Days:

### ■ 4 4-H and FAA Career Days:

- Students allowed to fly drones
- I Field Day:
  - Dean Lee: Sprayer drone presentation and flight of centrifugal nozzles
- Multiple Farm Visits:
  - Sprayer drone demonstration flights



### Droplet Spectrum of T40 (a) 2 GPA:

### Largest mean droplet was 300 um:

Extra fine wheel / Extra fine setting:

#### Extra fine wheel / Course setting:

#### Course wheel / Course setting:







# **DJI T40:**

### T40 – rotary / centrifugal

- Rotary / centrifugal nozzles:
  - Liquid disk spreaders that operate at different rotational speeds and have different disk; double cutter, coarse, etc.
- T30 regular hydraulic orifice nozzles (XR, etc.)
  - AIXR11001 or TT11002 are best
  - Some cut off in the middle but depends upon flight speed

#### DJI T40:





