



Member N.A.A.A.

FAAA Operation S.A.F.E. Fly-In & Clinic

Clewiston Airglades Airport, Clewiston, FL

Sponsored By



Agricultural Solutions

Ron Palumbo
Strategic Business Specialist-Florida
Cell: 305-304-7491 FMCcrop.com

Eric Johnson
Retail Market Manager- South Florida
Cell: 352-281-2325 EJ.Johnson@FMC.com

On Tuesday, October 22, the Florida Agricultural Aviation Association (FAAA) held an annual Operation S.A.F.E. Fly-In and Clinic for FAAA members who operate in Florida. Under the oversight of Scott Bretthauer, Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety Education, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, University of Illinois, this year we enjoyed a record attendance which included several guests from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Crystals and a local Chapter of the FFA. The members of the FFA Chapter were invited to join us and assist with the field operations during the tests. After a brief morning instruction, these young men and women did a great job monitoring the equipment and tracking the progress of information as each plane tested their spray patterns. Larry Robinson joined the group with his 1942 450 Steerman. The Steerman was among the first airplanes used in “crop dusting” many years ago. Larry had the opportunity to see the aircraft test their spray patterns from a bird’s eye view. Even with his experience, Larry was impressed with the differences between the agriculture aircraft working today and the aircraft used decades ago. His impression was that aerial application has become a mixture of science and art. That seems to pretty well sum it up for many folks when they witness their first Operation S.A.F.E.

During the daylong event, fourteen agricultural aircraft flew test patterns, with many of them testing for more than one rate of application. Scott took the time to go over the data with each pilot and made suggestions and recommendations on ways to improve the efficient application of materials and the nozzle settings that produce the most effective spray application. The program was approved for 4 Aerial Continuing Education Units to be applied toward license renewal for each pilot attending.

Because of the generous sponsorship of **FMC, Ron Palumbo and Eric Johnson**, we were able to provide this opportunity for our members and guests.



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