

Notice to Farm Staff



From time to time, aircraft are used on this property to apply pesticides and fertilizers to the crops. They are a quick and efficient way to carry out these jobs however there are hazards to be avoided when they are working. This brochure will help you to understand how they work and how to remain safe when working around the farm

Aerial Spraying is a very time critical operation

- Insects or weeds need to be controlled as soon as possible to prevent economic damage occurring
- Some fields may need to be sprayed with a certain wind to prevent chemical drift toward a susceptible area
- Aircraft need to get a lot of work done in short times of the day when conditions are ideal for spraying
- Plans can be changed at the last minute due to weather changes or chemical availability
- Aircraft are very expensive to run, burning up to 200l of fuel per hour, and costing around \$25/minute to run

For these reasons when aircraft turn up on the farm to do a spray job they need to have some priority over other farm activities so they can get the job done. Often you have little or no notice of their arrival due to last minute changes. There are some things you can do to assist the pilot in his job and to also ensure your protection from any chemical exposure.

The farm manager should notify you of any sprays that are due. He should give you instructions on what to do when the aircraft is carrying out the application. If you have any critical farm operations happening in the field such as irrigation changes, cultivating or chipping, advise the manager or call Air Ag on 4676 2236 and advise them. We can then adjust our plans or give you some notice of our arrival. Remember it does not usually take long to spray a field so the interruption is usually small.

Air Ag pilots monitor UHF 27. You can call them up when they arrive to talk to them about any problems. Remember to identify yourself as there are several aircraft flying and they can pick up your calls 30-40km away. ie "Aircraft on (farm name) this is (your name)"

It is very important not to expose yourself to any spray drift. Most chemicals used today are quite safe to humans, but it is best to be cautious. You must remain clear of the treatment area and the area downwind of the treatment area. You are safe up wind of the treatment area as spray will not travel against the wind.

The pilots will never spray if there is risk of drift onto any person. This is regardless of whether you say it is OK or not. If you enter the area being sprayed, or do not leave the field, the spray job may be terminated at great cost to your boss. Remember that spray drift travels downwind so if you need to drive past a field being sprayed, go on the upwind side. If you need to go into the field and adjust an irrigation gate or check water levels etc, give the pilot a call and he will try and accommodate you. If you want to know anything more about aerial spraying operations check out their web site on www.airag.com.au Remember UHF 27 if you have any problems

Remember you can call the pilot on UHF 27