

UAV's: The Guinea Pig Year

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Agriculture, Natural Resources & Community Development

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17 Extension Educators

Several Specialists

2 Coordinators



EA/EO



33% of the farmers are using drones by themselves or by the third party whereas 31% are thinking of using drones in 2018.





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MIE

S

August 29, 2016

The rules : Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Part 107 addresses:

- a) small UAS classification,
- b) certification, and
- c) operational limitations



Remote Pilot Certification Requirements

- Be at least 16 years old
- English proficiency
- Pass TSA background check
- Pass written (multiple choice) aeronautical knowledge exam at an FAA approved testing center
- Pass a recurrent aeronautical knowledge test every 24 months
- No aeronautical experience of flight proficiency required
- No airman medical certificate required

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Hardware

Phantom 4 Pro by DJI

Features: Obstacle avoidance sensors RGB 4K camera ~30 minute flight time/battery MicroSD card slot



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Other Options

Can get \$\$ with additional sensors!









Imagery & Sensors

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Orthomosaic – 2 dimensional imagery

- Requires standard RGB camera as the sensor
- Takes standard earth images (like Google Maps)
- Useful for finding trends from the "eye in the sky"
- Easily uploaded to most farm software





NDVI – Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

- Uses reflected light in the green, red, and near infrared light (NIR) spectrum to produce images
- The near-infrared (NIR) light spectrum can be defined as the region between 750 nm and 2,500 nm
- NDVI is beneficial for plant health
- NDVI can be calculated by finding the percentage difference between the near infrared and visible red light spectrums

$$NDVI = \frac{(NIR - Red)}{(NIR + Red)}$$





The difference in each map is a result of the difference in light spectrum the original images were captured in. The bottom left was captured in standard red, green, and blue light spectrum which creates a good plant health map. The picture on the bottom right is a true ndvi which requires near infrared light spectrum to be captured (top right).













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- Don't have to wait until harvest for map
- Variation of each row



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Software, Apps













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Manual Flights

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DJI Display:

- Battery level
- Radio signal strength
- Camera settings
- Launch/Return to home
- Distance from obstacles
- Distance from remote
- Elevation
- Speed
- Camera/video record







Good for identifying weeds and inspecting problem areas







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Automated Flights

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As easy as drag and drop



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Inspect nozzles, pivot path



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Identify tile lines



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Manual



2018 sulfur study, 2019 study to expand to boron



- 230 images for 130 acre field
 - 1.7 GB of raw image data
- No regulation to retain raw images, but good for insurance



- Multiple 32-64GB+ micro SDs
- External or internal hard drive
- Flash drives, cloud storage for sharing imagery with consultant, partners
- Good internet!



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Questions?



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Union Township: Field mixed SCN sample = 0



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Jackson Township: Field mixed SCN sample = 9 cysts and 1683 eggs / 100 cc soil

> Hotspot SCN sample = 10 cysts and 2040 SCN eggs per 100 cc soil

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