

Agriculture

With around 70,000 farms on 11 million acres, or about 41 percent of the state's total land area, agriculture is a significant contributor to Tennessee's economy. Tennessee's farms generate \$3.8 billion in sales revenue annually, with grain and soybeans being the principle crops. Tennessee's airports play a substantial role in facilitating the success of agriculture in the state, providing almost 800 jobs and \$32.5 million in economic impact in the agricultural sector.

Aerial Application – Maintaining Tennessee's Farmland from the Air

Aerial application involves applying agricultural products from an agricultural aircraft and is a key supporting component of Tennessee's agriculture sector. Aerial application of pesticides and fertilizers is the most economical and, even sometimes, the only way to distribute these substances onto crops, especially over large or remote areas. Aerial application is three to four times faster per unit area than other application methods and may boost crop yields by up to five percent.

Tennessee's airports support positive agricultural economic impacts by hosting aerial applicators. Five of Tennessee's airports have based aerial applicators, including Covington Municipal Airport (M04), Greeneville Municipal Airport (GCY), Arnold Field (M31), Humboldt Municipal Airport (M53), and Everett-Stewart Regional Airport (UCY). Together, these businesses contribute 50 jobs and over \$1.4 million in economic impact to the state's economy. The largest based aerial applicator, Vertical Flight Technologies, located at Greeneville Municipal Airport, employs 30 people and contributes over \$800,000 to Tennessee's economy. Though not as large, many of the smaller based aerial applicators also offer a noteworthy contribution to the economy. For example, Russell Flying Services, located at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, employs five people and contributes \$191,000 to Tennessee's economy.



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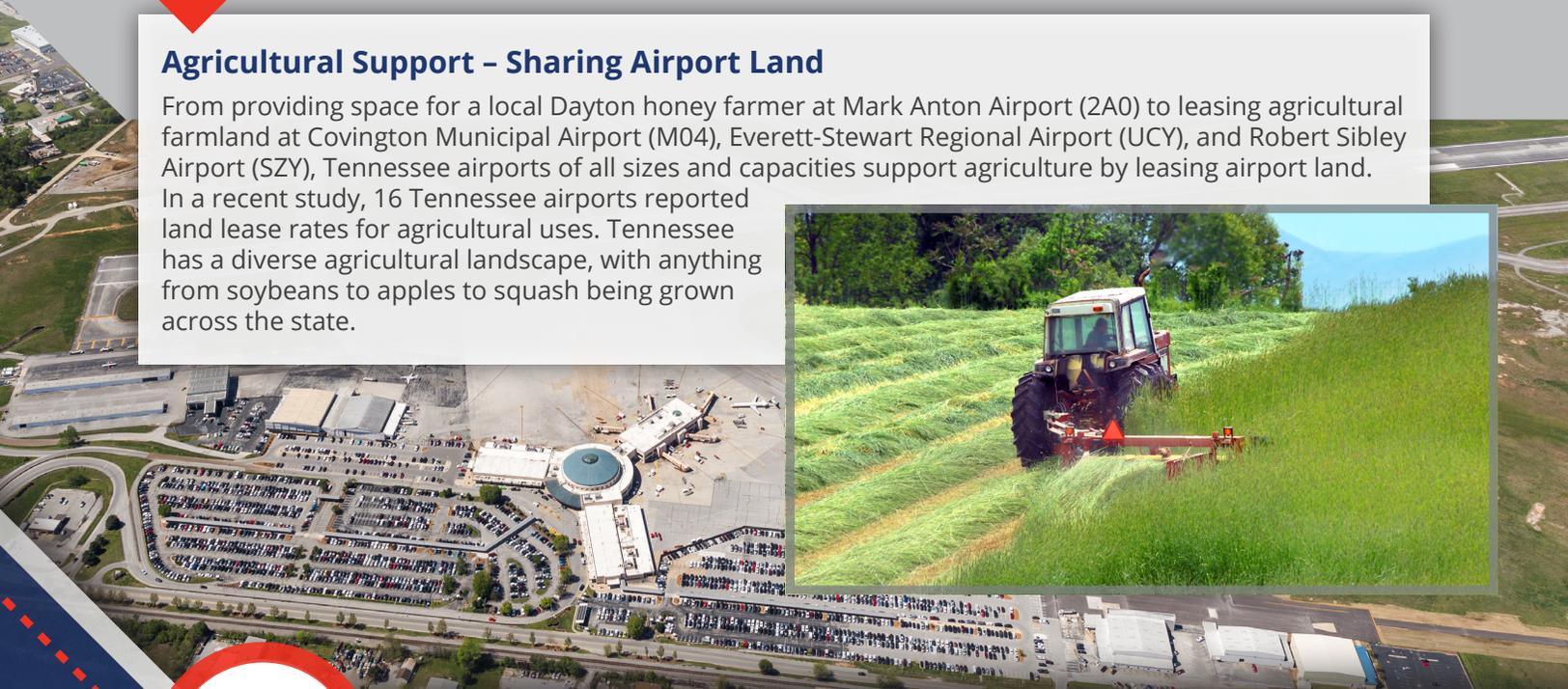
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Food Distribution - Time-Sensitive Product Shipping and Receiving

Tennessee statewide domestic air cargo shipments of agricultural products, including livestock, feed, and fertilizer, has a total value of \$20 million. Agricultural products are distributed domestically and internationally; exports of raw agricultural products alone equate to almost \$1 billion annually. While many agricultural products do not require the time benefits of air travel, some products must remain fresh, such as meat and dairy, and are thus time sensitive. Tennessee's airports help to ship these time-sensitive agricultural products for the state's agricultural producers and food manufacturers. Food manufacturers like Tyson Foods, Pictsweet Farms, and McKee Foods have facilities that are located close to airports, which helps to streamline their time-sensitive product distribution needs. Pictsweet Farms and McKee Foods are based tenants of McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport (MKL) and Lovell Field (CHA), respectively. At McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport, Pictsweet Farms employs four people and contributes \$287,000 to Tennessee's economy. McKee Foods has six employees at Lovell Field and contributes nearly \$1 million to Tennessee's economy.

Agricultural Support - Sharing Airport Land

From providing space for a local Dayton honey farmer at Mark Anton Airport (2A0) to leasing agricultural farmland at Covington Municipal Airport (M04), Everett-Stewart Regional Airport (UCY), and Robert Sibley Airport (SZY), Tennessee airports of all sizes and capacities support agriculture by leasing airport land. In a recent study, 16 Tennessee airports reported land lease rates for agricultural uses. Tennessee has a diverse agricultural landscape, with anything from soybeans to apples to squash being grown across the state.



Overview

Tennessee's airports support the state's agricultural and farming industries in a variety of ways. Aerial applicators use airports as operations bases, and their services provide immense value to the agricultural industry. Tennessee airports also support the state's agricultural industry by providing space and land for agricultural operations of all sizes and types.