Agriculture and Rural Areas

Introduction

Agriculture is a key driver of West Tennessee's economy, supporting farms, agribusinesses, and rural communities throughout the region. Airports play an important role in this sector by enabling aerial applications, crop monitoring, agricultural operations, and access to essential agriculture services. The following case studies highlight how West Tennessee airports contribute to agricultural productivity and rural economic development.



Everett-Stewart Regional Airport (UCY)

Bringing Tennessee's Agricultural Fields to New Heights

0M5 is a key player in West Tennessee's agriculture business. Russell Flying Service operates from the airfield, providing aerial application services that help farmers improve crop productivity through efficient spraying, seeding, and field management. In addition, hundreds of acres of airport-owned property are leased to local farmers for crop production, making agriculture an important on-airport economic activity. These crops include corn, soybeans, wheat, and other row crops. The airport is a fundamental part of Tennessee's agriculture and rural economy with its unique blend of agricultural businesses and agriculture on airport-owned land.

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Caroll County Airport (HZD)

Expanding Airport Facilities to Support Agriculture

HZD recently made key infrastructure investments to ensure their ability to continue supporting important agricultural activity in the region. The airport expanded its agricultural apron, providing dedicated space for loading, parking, and servicing aircraft used in aerial application and other farm-support activities. These agricultural flights out of HZD serve surrounding counties with significant corn, soybean, cotton, and wheat production.





> **"The airport expanded its agricultural apron, providing dedicated space for loading, parking, and servicing aircraft used in crop dusting and other farm-support activities.**

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Robert Sibley Airport (M08)

Supporting Tennessee's Agricultural Economy Through Land Leases

M08 contributes to the local agricultural economy by leasing portions of its property for agricultural use. It provides valuable farmland for local farmers while generating revenue that helps sustain airport operations. Notably, the airport serves as a staging and refueling node for agricultural pilots servicing regional growers. Hardeman County, where M08 is located, has approximately 159,283 acres dedicated to farming and more than 600 active farm operations, underscoring the airport's importance to the agricultural sector by providing critical aviation infrastructure that helps connect agricultural service providers with farms throughout the region.



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Conclusion

West Tennessee's airports play an important role in the agricultural economy by supporting aerial application services, agricultural aviation operations, and farmland production. Through activities such as aerial application, aircraft staging and refueling, and agricultural land leases, airports like Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, Carroll County Airport, and Robert Sibley Airport help strengthen farming operations and support rural communities across the region.



