



Agricultural Drone Specialists



AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2026

Your update on agricultural drones, regulation and the season ahead

Welcome to the latest VASPBA agriculture update. The 2026 season has moved faster than anyone predicted – FETF funding has landed, the regulatory picture has transformed, and drone spraying is now happening at genuine commercial scale across the UK. Here's what you need to know, and why now is the moment to act.



*The regulatory landscape has changed
– now is the time to prepare*



 **Innovation Above All.**
Precision. Sustainability. Progress.



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Secure Your DJI Agras T100 – Deposits Now Being Taken

The rush of FETF 2026 grant recipients has put unprecedented pressure on the T100 supply chain.

Aircraft – and just as critically, batteries – are being allocated on a strictly **first come, first served basis**, and we expect demand to outstrip supply well before the peak application window.

To guarantee your position in the queue,
we are now taking a £10,000 deposit per T100.
Placing a deposit ensures:



Your aircraft is allocated from confirmed inbound stock – no backorder queue;

Your full battery and charging package arrives with the aircraft, ready for day one;

Delivery timed for your operational readiness, not the back of the order book.

*Those who waited last season learned the hard way
that a drone without batteries doesn't spray.*

*Don't let a backorder cost you the season
– contact us today to reserve your T100.*



**Secure your T100 today,
before demand overtakes supply.**



CAA Decision 60: SORA Just Got Dramatically Easier

The CAA's recent amendments under ORS9 Decision 60 represent the single biggest step forward for agricultural drone operators since SORA was introduced.

The headline: the hold-ups that plagued SAIL 2 applications last year have now gone away.

Under the new agreed compliance basis approach, the requirement to route containment evidence through a Recognised Assessment Entity is now optional at medium robustness.

In practical terms, applications that previously stalled for months awaiting third-party assessment can now proceed on a compliance basis agreed directly with the regulator – faster, cheaper and far more predictable.

Better still, VASPBA now has a full in-house SORA authoring capability. We write, build and manage the application with you – no expensive external consultants, and a team that understands agricultural operations because we fly them ourselves.

If you want an authorisation in hand and a machine in the air for the October window, the time to start your SORA is now. These applications reward early movers – talk to us this month.

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***SORA applications are now faster,
simpler and more predictable.***





Plant Protection Products by Drone: The Path Is Being Paved

Behind the scenes, serious international work is clearing the way for routine application of plant protection products by drone in the UK.

The Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application System Task Force (UAPASTF) – a global consortium of pesticide registrants – is working hand-in-hand with the OECD Working Party on Pesticides Drone/UASS Subgroup to generate the spray drift, operator exposure and crop residue data that regulators need to approve drone application of PPPs.

This is exactly the evidence base HSE requires to move drone spraying beyond today's trial permit regime and towards full commercial authorisations. The direction of travel is clear, the data is being delivered, and operators who are set up, authorised and experienced when the door opens will be the ones who benefit.

Position yourself now.



***Be ready before the market opens,
not after.***



Operator Spotlight: Drone Spraying UK

If you want proof of what this industry can deliver, look no further than our friends at **Drone Spraying UK**.

In their first full commercial season they're already operating across the country, carrying out **under-sowing of maize with clover**, applying **foliar fertilisers**, and **shading glasshouses**, with demand continuing to grow week by week.

It's clear that farmers are recognising the benefits of drone technology, particularly where speed, precision and **reduced crop damage** can make a real difference.

Their success is reflected in their investment. With two DJI Agras T100s already on order, they're expanding their fleet to meet increasing customer demand and prepare for an even busier future.

It's an excellent example of what a well-equipped, properly authorised drone contracting business can achieve in 2026

and a clear indication that the opportunities within **agricultural drone operations** are only continuing to grow.



The demand for professional drone spraying services is already here.





Heavy Lift Is Coming: The DJI FlyCart 100

Finally – something big (and heavy-lifting) is coming to the UK. The **DJI FlyCart 100** is set to transform heavy-lift logistics, and VASPBA is already working behind the scenes to develop the operating procedures, training programmes and support packages this exciting new sector will require.

From **construction** and **forestry** to remote resupply, utilities, infrastructure maintenance and estate logistics, the potential applications are vast.

As UK regulations evolve, heavy-lift drones are expected to become an increasingly valuable tool for organisations looking to move equipment safely, efficiently and in places that are difficult to access by conventional means.

We can't reveal everything just yet, but we're preparing something very exciting.

Watch this space – some big announcements are on the way.



Big payloads. Bigger opportunities.



Conclusion: Building the Future of Agricultural Aviation

As we've seen throughout this edition, agricultural drone technology is no longer a concept for the future—it's becoming a practical tool for today's farming businesses. With regulatory progress accelerating, grant funding available, and commercial operators already proving what's possible, the momentum behind this industry has never been stronger.

Key takeaways:

- FETF funding is driving unprecedented demand for DJI Agras platforms.
- CAA Decision 60 has simplified the SORA process, making authorisations quicker and more accessible.
- International work on plant protection products continues to gather pace, bringing routine drone spraying ever closer.
- Professional drone contractors are already thriving, demonstrating the commercial opportunities available today.
- Heavy-lift drone logistics are on the horizon, with exciting developments set to reshape multiple industries.



*The future of agricultural aviation isn't years away
it's already taking flight. The question isn't if you'll be part of it, but when.*



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