

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT ASSISTING AGRICULTURE

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Drones gained notoriety as an adult toy of sorts, the next step up from radio-controlled miniature aircraft. The exception would be the unmanned planes and missiles sent into enemy territory with near precision accuracy.

Applications rose as did the design of the crafts, from simple units that can be bought at most any retail store to military applications. Scientific prognosticators predict the day will come when drones can

move people from place to place.

Meanwhile, drones and unmanned aircraft in general are a big asset to farmers and ranchers. According to the MIT Technology Review, drones have been used commercially since the early 1980s. The article lists six options for using drones in agriculture, including soil and field analysis, crop spraying and crop monitoring.

Todd Schrotberger, of 308Ag near Sidney, is amazed with how technology is changing agriculture practices.

“It is amazing what we have available,” he said.

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Unmanned aircraft are used in managing agriculture production. Ron Meyer, also chairman of the Sidney Airport Authority Board, is shown flying a drone near Sidney.

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