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Putting The "Service" In Farm Service

by JOSH RITTENBERRY



It is said that out of destruction comes new growth. Nowhere is that more evident than in the small farming community of Braggadocio, Missouri in the southern Bootheel where Coppage Farm Service now thrives.

It was on April 2, 2006 when a destructive F3 tornado swept through Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, taking with it homes, property, and livelihoods. Rebuilding and recovery took time, and some marks of that disaster are still evident even today. Taking the brunt of the damage was the vital agricultural industry that helps sustain the area. Coppage Farm Service owner Todd Coppage quickly saw that



beneath the rubble something could be built back stronger and more resilient.

“We decided to get into the aerial application business when the 2006 tornado wiped out the existing cotton gin business,” Todd recalls. “The same tornado also took out a local aerial applicator who did not wish to rebuild.”



With life-long experience farming and in the cotton gin industry, and with a familiarity dealing with aerial applicators, taking to the skies was a natural progression. The business was established in 2006 with an AT401, but traded for an AT502 later that same year.

“I started my operation with just myself and Rick McCord,” Todd says. “I bought his operation in Risco, Missouri, and he helped guide me through my first few years of the business. We later added an AT802 to our fleet and then moved it to Braggadocio. With the help of experienced pilot J.C. Helms, we grew this business to a two AT802 operation that now consists of five to six employees.”

J.C. Helms, who tragically passed away in 2020, had become a dear friend to the Coppage family. Todd says there are not enough words of gratitude he can pay to

J.C. for all that he did to help make the business what it is today. The operation now includes pilots Steven Parker and Michael Woodyard.

As is common with most aerial application businesses, Coppage Farm Service is a family operation, with Todd’s wife Julie helping him run things on the ground. Also included in the action are Todd’s daughter Statyn, 27, and two sons, Thaxton, 13, and Hudson, 10.

When they are not busy with aerial application operations, the family is also focused on farming 6,500 acres of mostly rice.

With today’s technology and growing regulations, Todd says that it is hard to predict where the aerial application

industry will go. "Right now, we are just happy to be involved in it and look forward to adapting to it in the future."

After having acquired all the tools necessary to run a successful aerial application business on the ground and in the air, the continued success of Coppage Farm Service is maintained by the strong relationships with area farmers nurtured over the years.



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On February 11 we bid a fond farewell to the trusty T6. Congratulations to new owner Kile Haas of Monette, Arkansas, who has already given it new life. Blue skies and tailwinds.

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Three Light Markers, Garmin SL-
40 Com, Garmin 430 GPS,
Garmin GTX-330 Transponder,



1978 AYRES S2R-600 N4001X

13,066.9 A/F TT, 6365 TT
Engine, 2679.8 TSOH, 750 HP,
Bantam GPS, Smoker, Bottom
Load Fuel, Vortex Generators
(Micro), 190 Gallon Fuel, Wing
Extension Installed, Weatherly



1978 AYRES S2R-T34 N4009J

19,811.85 A/F TT, 750 HP,
Smoker, Vortex Generators,
Single Point Fuel, Aileron Servo,
Winglet, Zee A/C, 500 Gallon
Hopper, 190 Gallon Fuel,
12,173.9 TT Wing Spars

Garmin 496 GPS (Panel Mounted),
Digiflight II Autopilot w/ Altitude Hold, PFD/MFD

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**1996 THRUSH S2R-G1
N2237D**

9688.0.0 A/F TT, Hatfield Bottom Load Fuel, A/C, Vortex Generators, New Satlock Bantam, Flow Control, Stainless Steel Spray System, AFS Check Valves, CP Nozzles, Agrinautics Pump, Lane Electric Brake, Aircraft Radios, Fresh Eddie Current, Spar Caps 3220 of 6,200 Hour Life

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**1998 Air Tractor AT-802A
N5094H**

12,152.6 A/F TT, 1230 HP, 2000 SPOH, Reabe Digital Hopper, Quantity & Spray Boom Pressure, E-TEC Inc Fast Start System, Comm Radio, Hemisphere G4 GPS, RT Side Boom Shut Off, Smoker, Hydraulic Gate, Air Conditioner, Wipaire Vortex Generators, Wingman Wing Due at 15,823.2, Gear Due at 12,798.2, Eyebolt Stabilizer Due at 14,798.2, 4479.7 Hobbs

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1983 AIR TRACTOR AT-301

Tail, Zee A/C & Heat

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**2013 THRUSH S2R-H80
N3046N**

3,600 A/F TT, 800 HP, Load Hawg, VGs, Bottom Fuel/Dual Load, Intelliflow with Smart Pump, Leading Edge Lights, Stainless Steel Booms, Hopper Rinse, Bantam, Smoker, Spreader with Kicker Plate, CPs, MVP 50T Glass Panel

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**1988 AIR TRACTOR AT-301
N69WN**

8,900 A/F TT, 600 HP, 530.0 SPOH, 320 Gallong Hopper, Ag Pilot X GPS, Flow Control, Smoker, Stainless Steel Boom, Air Conditioner, VGs, Lane Electric Brake, Botton Load Fuel, 25-Inch Gate, 2 Each Spreaders

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Replaced

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**1978 PIPER PAWNEE
BRAVE
N3787E**

45,950 A/F TT, Lycoming TIO-540, 1851.0 TT Engine, 446 Hrs on New Carbine, Cylinders Top OH, Spreader, Boom & Nozzles, 86 Gal Fuel, Satlock GPS, 3656 Hrs Left on Wing Spars

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**1981 CESSNA A185F
N61955**

7300 A/F TT, 770 SFRM, Continental IO520, 285 HP, Audio Panel w/ 3 Light Markers, Garmin 430 WAAS, Garmin 255 Com, Garmin GTX 345 w/ ADSM In and Out, Glide Slope, Stormscope, S-TEC-50 Auto Pilot with Altitude Hold, Rosen Sun Visors, VG Kit, Horton STOL Kit, Float Kit, Cessna Turbo Vents for Cabin Cooling, Backup Altimeter, Backup Artificial Horizon

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N31580

9679.2 A/F TT, 600 HP, 550
Engine TT, 350 Gallon Hopper,
Bantam GPS W/ G4, Light Bar,
Intelliflow, Stainless Steel Boom,
Nozzles CP-03, Smoker, A/C,
Bottom Load Fuel, New Side
Windows

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