

Dennis R. Gardisser, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Gardisser was born and raised on a dairy farm in northwest Arkansas. After high school and computer operating school, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps, spending 27 months in Vietnam as a crewmember on EC-121 Constellation and P-3 Orion AWAC aircraft. After returning home, he returned to school and wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on "Computer Simulation of Dry Material Distribution Patterns from Agricultural Aircraft," leading to improvements in aircraft dispersal of fertilizers, seed, and granular pesticides.

Since 1997, Dr. Gardisser has been president of WRK of Arkansas, a leader in the development of agricultural aircraft analysis equipment, software, and techniques. He has helped the US State Department with eradication of illegal crops in Central and South America. He has worked with several US agencies to set up applicators for oil dispersion to help mitigate incidents such as the Valdez oil spill. WRK of Arkansas conducts agricultural application research, testing, product development, drift evaluations, training seminars, and education, specializing in all types of chemical application technology from a variety of platforms with both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Dr. Gardisser has worked with the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) Operation S.A.F.E. (Self Regulating Application and Flight Efficiency) Fly-In's, designed to help pilots minimize the potential for adverse health and environmental effects of agriculture chemical applications. Over the years, he has trained and certified over 900 pilots and analysts from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Costa Rica.

Since 1996, Dr. Gardisser has served as Co-Chairman of the technology section of the US Coalition for Drift Minimization, and has served on the Professional Aerial Applicator Support System (PAASS) Planning and Development Committee since 2000. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has enlisted Dr. Gardisser to work with pesticide application.

Dr. Gardisser is a commercial pilot with ASEL, instrument, agricultural, ASC, and a CFI rating. He has obtained a Wings Level of XIII. He is a member of the NAAA, a lifetime member of the AR, MO, CO, and OK Agricultural Aviation Associations, and the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association, while serving as Co-Chairman of the AR Junior Aviator of the Year and CFI of the year committees.