USES FOR AERIAL IMAGERY

Aerial images are valuable for many things besides crop measurement. The historical records available at APFO could benefit many customers. APFO’s digital products, in combination with GIS, can expand the uses for aerial imagery.

Among the uses are:

- Education
- Conservation Practices
- Urban Development and Planning
- Tax Assessment
- Pollution Studies
- Drainage Programs
- Boundary Determinations
- Road and Highway Location
- Pipeline and Power Line Construction
- Watershed and Reservoir Planning
- Historical Record of Property Changes
- Urban Development and Planning
- Recreation
- Land Change Analysis
- Personal Enjoyment

HISTORICAL RECORD OF PROPERTY CHANGES

Imagery before 1955 may be obtained from:

The National Archives
Cartographic & Architectural Branch
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: 1-866-272-6272
Website: www.archives.gov

HOW TO ORDER APFO PRODUCTS

You can send to APFO by e-mail, fax, or mail one of the following:

- A legal description of the area you are interested in (township, range, and section numbers).
- Latitude and longitude coordinates (point and radius, four corner points, or two opposite corner points).
- A topographic, county, or city map outlining your area of interest as accurately as possible.
- Digital shapefiles preferably with UTM NAD83 projection and corresponding zone.

- Check, money order, and credit cards. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover.
- Official purchase orders from tax-supported agencies, colleges, and universities only (State, County, City, Tribal).

You may order over the phone with a credit card if you know the complete aerial imagery identification number(s).

All products are made to order and completion time may vary depending on existing workload. Please allow up to ten days for shipping.

Please visit our website at www.apfo.usda.gov for further information regarding APFO’s aerial imagery and services.

Imagery before 1955 may be obtained from:

The National Archives
Cartographic & Architectural Branch
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: 1-866-272-6272
Website: www.archives.gov

Issued June 2008
Supersedes FSA “APFO Imagery Products & Services” May 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
INTRODUCTION
The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 established farm programs designed to balance production and diversify crops. Farmers (producers) participating in the Federal farm programs needed to have accurate measurements made of their fields. However, precise measurements were still being made by an older method of surveying, with chains carried around the fields. Maps were drawn by hand. A quick, accurate, and inexpensive method had to be developed to measure the millions of acres of farmland across the country.

The mission of the Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) was to provide rectified aerial photographs for accurately measuring field acreage. Field measurements were made from aerial enlargements with a planimeter. Aerial photographs, when properly delineated and annotated with field boundaries and acreage, served as the basic record of producer land use information for each county office to administer programs.

Over the years, APFO joined with other federal agencies in cooperative photography programs. The latest program is the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). APFO now provides NAIP digital imagery to the USDA Service Center Agencies that utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as the method for administering federal farm programs to streamline daily operations and facilitate updates of vital information. This includes the updating of digitized farm field boundaries known as Common Land Units (CLU).

PHOTO PRODUCTS
Photographs - APFO’s photo products have long been available to the general public. Photos are available in different types and scales ranging from 1” = 5,000’ to 1” = 200’. Paper sizes range from 10”x10” to 38”x38”. Please refer to the price list form FSA-441A for more details.

Indexes - Available as photo, line or spot (ozalid), or digital. All indexes have recently been scanned to a digital format and will soon be available for download and viewing.

HISTORIC FILM LIBRARY
APFO is home to one of the country’s largest aerial film libraries. We currently house more than 70,000 rolls of film (10 million plus images). Our film dates from 1955 to the present. We have coverage of most of the United States and its territories. We are also one of the last federal government wet labs in the country. Historic aerial images are playing a more vital role today which include environmental assessments, change detection, and property boundary disputes.

As the years go by, the historical imagery become more and more valuable. These images are available as photographs or in a digital format.