

PRESS RELEASE

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UK AGTECH COMPANY INTRODUCES NEW APP THAT USES DRONES TO MAKE FIELD WALKING A THING OF THE PAST

UK based Drone AG is launching a first-of-its-kind app that scouts fields for you, in less time and in more detail. All you need is a smartphone and a small drone.

After choosing a field the Skippy Scout app flies your drone for you, collecting high resolution imagery at various points in the field. These are downloaded straight to your phone and can be analysed for Growth Stage, Green Area Index, Weeds and Disease. You can then share the data from your phone at the fields edge.

Drone AG has been offering farming-focused drone systems and certified training for over 3 years, and this is their first move into software which is a fast growing area in modern agriculture.

“In terms of taking and analysing photos, it’s like other crop scouting apps you can get, except with Skippy your phone camera can fly around the field by itself” says Drone AGs Jack Wrangham. “It makes field scouting more efficient through the use of affordable drone systems, which many farmers and agronomists already own. The aim is to save time, while also providing more information which can be easily shared.”

“You can use popular drone systems like the DJI Mavic and Phantom series, using an iOS based mobile phone. These drone systems can be purchased for as little as £500, so the cost of entry is relatively low” said Jack.

Flying drones professionally needs a licence from the CAA. This means those that provide services to others, such as Crop Consultants will need to do a 2 day course and flight test to obtain their PfCO (Permission for Commercial Operations from the CAA). However the CAA has recently confirmed that a farmer operating a drone on their own land does not need a commercial license.

Jack says “It’s great to have confirmation on this from the CAA, as it’s been a grey area for so long. Whilst it means farmers don’t need a full license, they should still follow the drone code - keeping the drone within line-of-sight and below 400ft.”

“As the technology develops and becomes more intelligent, flights beyond line-of-sight will become safe enough to allow and we’ll start to see true drone automation on the farm. Using a drone to scout a field is just the beginning of our goal to develop super-simple software that uses drones (not just airbourne!), smart phones, automation and AI to enable more efficient farming, with less hassle!”

The Skippy Scout app will be free during its launch and testing phases, starting in November.

For more information, and to sign up for early access, visit Drone AGs website:
<https://droneag.farm/skippy-scout/>

Or contact them direct:
info@droneag.farm
01668 217100

Resources:

Video link - <https://vimeo.com/293715210>

Images folder -

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y1BZlxmSnWGQbGSYGF_PIA4ADkYHGApr?usp=sharing