

# Seven country stars who are also pilots

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When it comes to country music, our favorite artists are known for their captivating lyrics, toe-tapping melodies or one-of-a-kind styles. In some cases, they're equally known for what they do outside of music, be it their philanthropic efforts or business ventures.

And then there's this elite class of pilots.

A handful of country hitmakers have taken their interest in aviation to the next level, with many owning their own aircraft or helicopter — we're looking at you, Luke Bryan!

## What Are the Benefits to Being a Pilot?

One perk to having your pilot's license is the freedom to travel across the country on a whim. Dierks Bentley once said he enjoyed being able to fly himself to and from his shows while on tour. The ability to pilot his own plane enabled him to be home with his family more frequently while on the road.

"I don't like being gone anymore than I have to be," he explained to *E! News* in 2018. "I love being out here and doing this, but when it's time to go home, I'll find a way to get back for birthdays and first days of school, any break there is."

Aside from being able to come home more often, many of our flying country artists were inspired to take to the sky by other pilots. In fact, Alan Jackson says he learned most of his flying from the man who flew him to many of his shows.

Scroll down to see which stars have gotten their pilot's licenses.

*Jess hosts the syndicated radio show, Taste of Country Weekend, which can be heard on country stations nationwide. Tune in for all of the best new country music, spotlights on new tracks and emerging artists, plus Double-Downs on all of your favorites. The weekend is always better with a little Taste of Country in it.*

## These Country Singers Are Also Licensed Pilots

When it comes to touring, many of our favorite country stars choose to travel by bus or commercial aircraft, while others have the luxury of chartering a private jet. However, there are a select few artists who can fly themselves to their gigs!

A handful of singers have their pilot's license, and many of them own their own planes, too! Or — in Luke Bryan's case — a helicopter.

Keep scrolling to see which country artists are pilots.

### Aaron Tippin

Tippin is not just a pilot, he's also a certified flight instructor with his own flight school, [Tennessee Flying Machines](#). While most kids were excited to get their driver's license at age 16, Tippin had his eyes to the sky. He took his first solo flight as a teenager and has created quite the aviation legacy. His son Ted is also a pilot and had his dad as his instructor.

### Alan Jackson

Although Jackson doesn't actively fly any longer, he does maintain his license. His interest in the hobby piqued during his many cross-country trips while touring. Jackson reportedly learned to fly by watching and learning from the man behind the yoke. He enjoyed flying for years, but his wife Denise grew weary of worrying about him every time he took to the sky, so he hung it up. Ironically, his wife used to be a flight attendant.

### Dierks Bentley

It was at an early age that Bentley caught the flying bug. After winning a flight in a Cessna 152 in an auction, he took his first flight at the age of 13, and by the time he was in his early 20s, he had a license of his own. Bentley enjoys the freedom of having his license and his own plane, a Cirrus, which has allowed him to be home more often in between shows.

## Dustin Lynch

Lynch is a newly-minted member of the country music aviation club. The singer was checked out for his license in Jan. 2023 and shared the news on social media, thanking his friends and team for their support throughout his two-year journey. Lynch has also purchase his own plane – a Cirrus. He was able to take his grandfather, who is also a pilot, up with him on a flight last year. Grandpa learned to fly 40 years ago, but Lynch says he’s still got it.

## Jamey Johnson

Like many did during the pandemic, Johnson used his newfound downtime to learn a new skill. He began taking lessons and even returned to his hometown of Montgomery, Ala. to complete some of his exams. As a pilot he flies a King Air and has even performed at the Oshkosh Air Show, which he undoubtedly flew himself to.

## Luke Bryan

In 2021, Bryan added helicopter pilot to his list of accomplishments. Learning about the aircraft and eventually getting his license became his passion during the pandemic – he even bought his own helicopter! He now takes every opportunity to get in the air, but that doesn’t mean everyone wants to hop in with him. His mom LeClaire Bryan was nervous to fly with him, while fellow country singer Jason Aldean says he refuses to ride with him.

## Tim McGraw

In an effort to quit drinking, McGraw took on learning to fly as a way to distract himself from his bad habits. The country singer's father was an aviator in the Army, so he had been around aircraft all throughout his upbringing. His interest in becoming a pilot himself grew as he traveled across the country numerous times while touring. Since then he has invested in his own plane, also a Cirrus.

## Thomas Rhett ... Almost

While Rhett has yet to pull the trigger on his dreams of becoming a pilot, he's been considering it since at least 2017. At the time, he said that he and fellow country singer Tyler Hubbard had discussed the idea of getting their licenses. In 2023, Rhett explained that his lack of courage has kept him out of the pilot's seat. He has all of the support he needs, though, with both his brother and father-in-law being pilots.

## Tyler Hubbard ... Maybe

Although Hubbard hasn't really spoken about the idea of becoming a pilot, fellow country singer Thomas Rhett mentioned in 2017 that they have had conversations about it. Should either of them get their licenses, they don't plan on straying too far from home. Rhett explained at the time that they wanted to be low-key pilots. Hubbard's father took up flying helicopters as a hobby and unfortunately was killed in a freak accident in the aircraft when the country singer was a sophomore in college.

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