**C**

It used to be mostly the military that used small, unpiloted aircraft, called “drones.” The little planes were very costly. But as they have dropped in price more people have begun to use them.

Rescue workers and farmers are among the new users.

The fast rate of development of computer technology, image sensing devices (图像传感装置), satellite navigation (卫星导航) and smartphones has led to lower-priced drones. Researchers and developers have learned how to build smaller and less-costly drones. Moviemakers are using drones to film from the sky. Historians use them when they explore ancient buildings. Rescue workers use them to look for people. And now farmers are using them to monitor their crops.

Romain Faroux is a French businessman who starts companies. His father was a farmer. He believed drones could help farmers. He helped create a company that developed a small drone that could be controlled by people on the ground. They called it “Agridrone.” It uses a special “optical sensor (光学传感器)” to examine crops. The technology used is similar to that used by smartphones — except it has wings. A computer program directs the drone to fly over the crops. The sensor on the drone records four different-colored “bands” of sunlight that are reflected off the crops.

Jean-Baptiste Bruggeman is a farmer. He says the drone flies over his crops at different times of the season. This provides a lot of information about his crops. The drone pictures show him the exact amount of fertilizer (肥料) the crops need. It also shows exactly where the fertilizer is needed.

Romain Faroux says farmers use information collected by the Agridrone to place fertilizer only in areas where it is needed. This saves money and reduces pollution. Before they used the drones, farmers would put the same amount of fertilizer everywhere. Drones also save time because farmers can examine up to three hectares in about a minute.

**1. Why do rescue workers and farmers begin to use drones?**

A. They can save their time.

B. Their prices have dropped.

C. They can help them get more business.

D. Their sizes become smaller.

**2. Drones developed by Romain Faroux’s company can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

A. explore ancient buildings

B. put fertilizer on the crops

C. help farmers examine their crops

D. help rescue workers look for people

**3. What can the sensor on the drone do?**

A. Help the sunlight shine on the crops.

B. Direct the plane to fly over the crops.

C. Examine the different colors of the crops.

D. Record the sunlight reflected off the crops.

**4. What can we infer from the fourth paragraph?**

A. The drone can only fly over the crops after the harvest.

B. The exact amount of fertilizer the crops need can’t be calculated.

C. Some areas of a field may need more fertilizer than others.

D. The farmers can get a lot of information about their crops online.

**5. According to the text, the use of the drone is .**

A. environment-friendly B. wasteful C. costly D. safe