



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Central Region - Denver, Colorado

October 22, 2019

Memorandum of Record

Subject: CEN17LA027, N8525G, Hereford, TX

This accident was originally assigned to Mr. Tom Latson, Air Safety Investigator. Mr. Latson retired from the National Transportation Board prior to completing this investigation. The investigation was subsequently completed by another investigator using limited evidence retrieved from Mr. Latson's records and the preliminary report. Some details of the factual report were only available in the preliminary report created by Mr. Latson. Those details were assumed to be accurate and were incorporated into the final factual report. The following information in the factual report was copied from the preliminary report.

The pilot reported that that he was in a right turn and flying a circular swath to "trim-up" on the outside edges of a center-pivot irrigated cotton field when the right wingtip "got too far into the cotton crop" and control was lost. The airplane impacted terrain and cartwheeled, but came to rest upright in a partially nose-up attitude. The propeller, and engine were impact separated and there was substantial damage to the fuselage, empennage, tail surfaces, both wing spars, and all control surfaces. There was a fuel leak at the scene but there was no postimpact fire. A witness called 9-1-1, and emergency responders arrived quickly and assisted the pilot to exit the wreckage..

The statement of the pilot was not documented elsewhere. Neither was the information regarding the post accident observations describing the wreckage and the witness phone call. However, the information is in line with other evidence retained during the investigation.

Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator