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Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 08/03/2022

Subject: CEN22LA349

Contact: Stephen Ruack

According to Mr. Ruack, the accident flight was the 5th aerial application flight of that day and within his calculated weight and balance. The previous 4 flights were conducted with the same load weight and type of chemical as the accident flight.

Shortly after takeoff about 15 ft above ground level, the airplane would not continue to climb. The pilot stated that he advanced the throttle, but the engine did not seem to respond. The airplane was in a nose high attitude when the right wing impacted a corn field about 300 ft from the end of the grass airstrip.

The pilot reported he had exclusively been operating the airplane for about 5 years without experiencing an issue. He stated that the airplane recently underwent a 100-hour inspection, and an overhauled propeller governor was installed during that inspection.

--END OF CONVERSATION--