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Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 10/11/2022

Subject: CEN23LA009

Contact: Pilot/Builder/Owner - Mike Yates

According to pilot and builder of the experimental airplane, he was performing a test flight after completing a modification to the pitch control system. During his first test flight, he noticed the pitch control was touchy/squirrely, and he wanted to adjust the pitch control. During the test flight while on downwind to land at the private airstrip, the engine lost partial power. He stated that during the base to final turn about 300 ft above ground level, the airplane stalled, and he lost control. The airplane impacted a cornfield short of the private airstrip, and he was ejected from the airplane. A family member was able to locate him in the field and provide assistance. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation. He stated that the partial loss of engine power was due to an excessive fuel pressure to the carburetor because he forgot to open a valve that bypasses fuel around the fuel pump that is used for engine priming and starting. The pilot designed the fuel system in the experimental airplane.