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Aviation Safety - Eastern Region (AS-ERA)

Date: July 12, 2023
Subject: N827JA Interview with Pilot
Contact: Mr. John Andre, pilot and builder

The following is a record of conversation with Mr. John Andre. Mr. Andre was called on July 12, 2023, at 1152 EDT. He was called at [REDACTED] and provided an e-mail address of [REDACTED]

At the beginning of the interview, he was advised that the NTSB is a federal agency mandated by Congress to investigate aircraft accidents, and NTSB has no authority to take any action against any individual. He was also informed that the purpose of an NTSB investigation is for safety only.

I asked Mr. Andre if there were pre-runway excursion anomalies or malfunctions with the airplane and he responded that there were not, and that this event was pilot error. He explained that this was a post maintenance test flight and he was landing on a narrow grass runway used for agricultural operations. He drifted too far to the right on the runway and the soybeans caught the right wing, resulting in substantial damage.

I explained that we would be assigning this accident and that he would be receiving a form to fill out and return within 10 days.

The call ended at 1155 EDT.