



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN12CA274
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 3, 2012, 18:50 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3166W
<b>Aircraft:</b>	AIR TRACTOR INC AT-301	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Fuel exhaustion	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

While conducting an aerial application flight, the pilot noticed that the fuel gauge displayed a low quantity. While the pilot attempted to return to an airstrip, the engine stopped producing power. The pilot performed a forced landing in a cornfield. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings and fuselage. The pilot reported in a postaccident statement that he ran out of fuel. Postaccident examination confirmed fuel exhaustion.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper fuel management, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

### Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Fuel - Fluid management
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Fuel planning - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Enroute-cruise</b>	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
<b>Emergency descent</b>	Off-field or emergency landing

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	58, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 2, 2012
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	AIR TRACTOR INC	<b>Registration:</b>	N3166W
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT-301	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	301-0552
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R1340 SERIES
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Swancutt Aviation Inc	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Swancutt Aviation Inc	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	MCK	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	13 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	18:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	360°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.8 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	29°C / 8°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	McCook, KS	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	McCook, KS	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	41.395558,-96.598521(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Aguilera, Jason
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Henry Rochon; FAA FSDO; Wichita, KS
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 31, 2013
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=83558">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=83558</a>

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