Photo Album:
Lodged corn due to
stalk “cannabilism” or
repartitioning of nutrients
to the ear

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These plants lodged because this high-yielding hybrid cannibalized the stalk to send nutrients to the ear as it finished development. Stresses that reduce plant growth will can increase stalk cannibalism (foliar disease, drought, lack of nutrients). Lodge plants means lost yield. Height of the ear on the stalk can be a factor in how easily plants fall over.
Hollow pith because nutrients are being repartitioned to the ear.
Notice that the stalk has a length-wise sunken crack in it. This is because there is no pith inside, it has been “cannibalized” or repartitioned to the ear. Some plants had this sunken stalk, but had not yet lodged. You can evaluate which fields are most likely to lodge by examining the stalks.
You can see that there is no disease or insect damage in this stalk. Notice how its diameter narrows where the pith has been cannibalized.