

## Comedian George Casey entertains producers

Humorist, comedian and entertainer George Casey has been pleasing audiences for more than 30 years with his self-deprecating humor and harmless barbs. He is the featured entertainment at the annual meeting of the DeKalb County Corn & Soybean Growers on Jan. 26, 2010.

George Casey was born in a remote seaside village on the west coast of Ireland legendary for its storytelling. Growing up in a large family, Casey saw humor everywhere and honed his skills as a comic at the expense of his brothers and sisters.

In 1970, he immigrated to

the US and earned his citizenship. Casey and his family now call Branson, Missouri home.

Casey has been entertaining audiences all over the country with his humor, clean jokes and stories. Some of the acts George has opened for and toured with include Rosemary Clooney, The Osmond Brothers, Ray Price, Three Dog Night, Brooklyn Bridge, Donald O'Connor and Bobby Vinton. He has performed at Caesar's Palace, The Sahara, and is a regular act at The Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Casey will entertain Corn & Soybean Growers at their annual meeting. The meeting is being held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture.

Corn and Soybean Grower members are welcome to attend the annual meeting. The evening begins with a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. in



George Casey

the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Following dinner, the Corn & Soybean Growers will hold a brief business meeting in the theater.

Jeff Heinsohn, president, will preside over the meeting. Election of directors and other reports will be provided that evening.

To make reservations, contact the DeKalb County Farm Bureau office, 815-756-6361.

## USDA may revise crop numbers in March

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) may release updated acreage, yield, production and stock estimates for corn and soybeans in the March 10 Crop Production report. Previous estimates included in the Crop Production 2009 Summary released on Jan. 12 were based on a sample of producers growing crops this past year.

When producers were surveyed in late November and early December, there was significant unharvested acreage

of corn in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin and significant unharvested acreage of soybeans in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The unharvested area and expected production were included in the totals released on Jan. 12.

NASS will re-contact respondents who previously reported acreage not yet harvested in these states. If the newly collected data justifies any changes, NASS will update the January estimates in the March 10 report.

### *From the President*



The following notes will be short and sweet just like the 2009 growing season.

Thank goodness for the early dry spring, easy to make management decisions (all of which paid off), more than ample heat units in the summer, and a fall where everything worked like clockwork for everyone.

*Jeff Heinsohn, president  
Corn & Soybean Growers*

I'd put politics and consumer opinion on the same easy street as the 2009 growing season. It's sure great that everyone understands the agriculture industry, knows where their food comes from and supports laws that make it easier for us to produce the world's safest and most inexpensive food supply.

Don't we wish ...

As we all know 2010 will not

be just like 2009, or even the year described above. As producers, all we can do is make the best decisions we can for a "normal year" and be sure to learn from years prior. Let's remember that knee jerk reactions based on one year don't pay in the long run.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on January 26!

# Corn, soybean books donated to schools

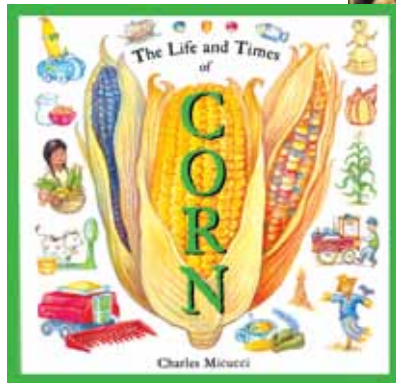
Young minds will be inspired and educated about agriculture in books found in their school libraries. This year, the DeKalb County Corn & Soybean Growers will be donating three corn and soybean books to local schools during National Agriculture Week, March 14-20.

In past years, the Corn & Soybean Growers have donated several books about corn and soybeans to school libraries as part of Farm Bureau's Ag Book Donation program. Commodity groups, agribusinesses and Farm Bureau partner to identify good agricultural books and donate them to schools.

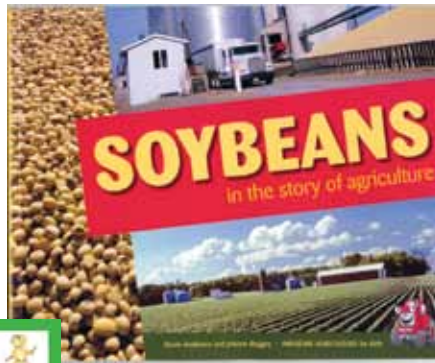
The corn and soybean books donated this year are geared

for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students. They are:

*The Life & Times of Corn* by Charles Micucci - This appealing children's book describes the history,



anatomy, types, and uses of corn as well as how it is produced. It contains a wealth of facts and beautifully rendered illustrations. It will be donated to schools with grades 3-6.



*Soybeans in the Story of Agriculture* by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggy - Part of the Awesome Agriculture for Kids series, this book describes modern soybean production, processing, distribution, marketing, and uses. The book is illustrated with many engaging color photos. It will be donated to schools with grades 3-6.

*Soybeans: An A to Z Book* by Susan Anderson and

JoAnne Buggy - Also part of the Awesome Agriculture for Kids series, this book describes soybeans for a younger audience in an A to Z format. It will be donated to schools serving grades pre-kindergarten-2.

## Harvest Helpers

Jeff Craig, Wyffels

Mike DeSchepper,  
Pfister Hybrids

Kevin Faivre,  
(Midwest Seed Genetics)  
Channel Bio, LLC

Rick Griesbach,  
Premier Resource  
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Josh Leupkes,  
Tractor/trailer hauling

Dave Rolli, Monsanto/  
DeKalb & Asgrow

Nick Scherer,  
Elburn Coop

Phil & Jim Montgomery,  
Plot Hosts

A special thanks also to Buck Bros., Inc. at Hampshire for providing a 4-wheel Gator for Field Day and a combine for the corn plot harvest; Russ Deverell for donating his time and a combine to help with the corn plot harvest.



## Field Day

Sept. 15, 2009  
Montgomery Farm,  
Kingston

# DeKalb County Plot Observations

By Rick Griesbach, Crop Consultant  
Premier Resource Alliance

After waiting for the second coldest day of the year, we finally harvested the test plot Dec.15. This was the third time we attempted to harvest the plot. The first attempt in early November resulted in moistures in the 40's. The second attempt, just after Thanksgiving, was 12 hours too late. When we finally harvested, the temperature was around 10 degrees, making moisture sensors irrelevant.

I took all the corn to DeLong in Kirkland and warmed the corn to a minimum of 50 degrees before running moisture and test weight. A big thanks to Bobby Jones of DeLong who ran well over 100 samples for moisture and test weight.

The yield for corn-on-soybeans averaged 24 bushels per acre more than the corn-on-corn. The corn-on-corn looked better than the corn-on-

soybeans on plot day because of extra nitrogen that we sidedressed on the corn-on-corn, but this did not translate into more yields. I speculate that the corn-on-corn being a point wetter and half a percent lower in test weight would have yielded more if we had the heat units, but we would have needed no frost and heat until Thanksgiving to find that out.

The early season hybrids clearly were the top yielders with 9 out of the top 10 finishers being 106 day or less. The plot was planted reasonably early for this year (May 16). With heat unit accumulations falling short of 2200, we ended the year with very few hybrids making black layer. With the average relative maturity being 109 days in the plot, this means we fell about 400 heat units short on average. The kernel's milk line was about

half way down the kernel when frost stopped the starch accumulation. This becomes very apparent in a review of the test weights with the early averages above 50 pounds and everything else averaging significantly less. Doing a little math, if the corn had enough heat to get 56# test weight, we would have added 30 bushels.

With this year's corn plot we did a lot of additional testing. The first test was to replace nitrogen with Synagro 'manure'. For corn-on-soybeans, the yield improved with Synagro by 4 bushels from 198 to 202 bu/a. For corn-on-corn, the yield for Synagro dropped 26 bu/a from 148 to 122 bu/a.

The corn-on-corn with Synagro was yellow throughout July and August. It appears that the sewage is a relatively stable form of nitrogen that is not available early in the season.

We also tested row spacing and populations. For this test we used DK 61-19 (more fixed ear) and DK 62-54 (more flex ear). We tested populations at 27,000, 32,000, 37,000 and 43,000 in 20-inch rows, 30-inch rows and twin 7 rows. When we filled the boxes the samples from the twin rows looked most impressive, but the combine was the least impressed with the twins. See the chart below summarizing the row spacing data.

## Row Spacing & Plant Population Comparisons

DeKalb Hybrid	Row Spacing	Population	Moisture	Test Weight	Yield
61-19	20	27700	23.6	49.2	166.9
61-19	30	28200	23.7	47.3	165.4
61-19	Twins	28200	24.1	47.9	161.8
			23.8	48.1	164.7
62-54	30	28200	24.3	47.4	170.4
62-54	20	27700	24.6	46.5	169.0
62-54	Twins	28200	25	47.7	166.1
			24.6	47.2	168.5
61-19	20	32000	24.2	48.3	178.4
61-19	30	32000	23.1	47.7	174.0
61-19	Twins	33000	23.9	48.2	171.3
			23.7	48.1	174.5
62-54	30	32000	24.5	47.4	176.2
62-54	20	32000	22.9	47.8	175.7
62-54	Twins	33000	24.5	47.1	169.0
			24	47.4	173.6
61-19	20	37700	24.7	47.6	178.6
61-19	30	38000	23.8	47.1	174.2
61-19	Twins	38000	24.2	46.8	167.0
			24.2	47.2	173.3
62-54	20	37700	22.9	47.3	187.2
62-54	30	38000	24.8	48.5	179.9
62-54	Twins	38000	24.2	48.1	167.9
			24	48.0	178.4
61-19	20	43000	26	46.0	182.4
61-19	30	43000	23.3	47.2	172.6
61-19	Twins	43000	24.7	46.5	171.3
			24.7	46.6	175.4
62-54	20	43000	23.2	48.1	187.9
62-54	Twins	43000	26.9	46.9	181.0
62-54	30	43000	25	48.0	176.8
			25	47.7	181.9

DK 61-19 more fixed ear hybrid, DK 62-54 more flex ear hybrid

## Late Harvest for County Plots



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