

Books for the youngest tractor fans

Real equipment and cartoon characters converge in new children's series that makes modern farming the hero

Casey & Friends published by Octane Press

Literature for little tractor fans just got smarter. A new series brings children interested in farming and farm equipment an educational and entertaining look at how tractors, combines and tillage operate together on the farm.

Published by Octane Press, an independent publisher known for award-winning tractor books, the *Casey & Friends* series uses action photos of equipment in real farming situations with cartoon characters to explain how modern farm equipment works in a factual and fun way. Holly Dufek, a seasoned educator and national curriculum writer, joins Paul Nunn, Licensed Artist for Disney and Lucas Film, to help kids make the connection with the farm equipment they see in the countryside and the food on their table.

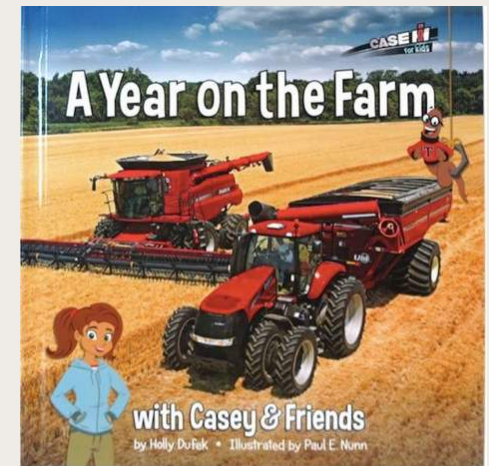
Readers follow Casey the farmer, Tillus the worm, Big Red the tractor, and a whole cast of cartoon equipment characters who teach important life lessons gleaned from the farm, like thinking ahead and working as a team. Each title highlights a different aspect of farm equipment and technology from planting to harvesting with educational sidebars, picture glossaries and fun farming facts for added learning possibilities.

A Year on the Farm (Jan. 2015) introduces children to the world of modern farming by teaching them about the different jobs a farmer does each season. Casey and her team show how tractors, combines and other equipment: plant and harvest crops, work in the farmyard, and care for animals. Learn how farming involves planning for the year, reacting to the weather, and working as a team.

Big Tractors (Apr. 2015) shows how the biggest, most powerful tractors handle the demanding jobs of pulling and powering on the farm. Find out how Big Red and Sammy – the biggest tractors on the farm – use their muscle power to work in the field with the rest of the team. Learn about the science of farming and discover how advanced technology makes Big Red and Sammy special.

Combines (June 2015) explains the step-by-step process used by the most complex machines on the farm work to harvest crops. Follow Cody and Kellie—the combines of Happy Skies Farm—as they do the work of three machines: gathering, separating, and unloading grain and corn.

Planters & Cultivators (March 2016) features the specialized farm equipment used to cultivate, plant and spray crops. Learn how Tammi the Tiller, Evan the Early Riser Planter and Peter the Patriot Sprayer work together to make this year's crop bigger than ever. Explore the science of soil and discover how Casey's team keeps it healthy.



BOOK SPECS

Written by Holly Dufek

Illustrated by Paul E. Nunn

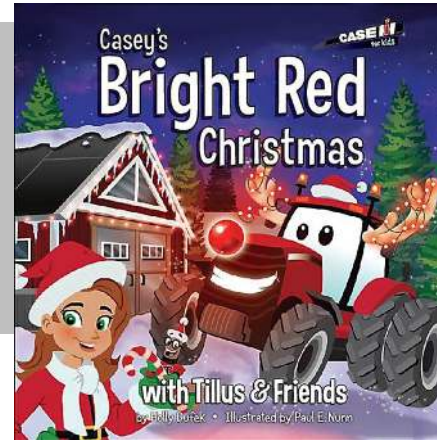
Ages 4-8 | 32 pages

9x9-inch hardcover | \$14.99 each

Printed in the USA

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Casey's Bright Red Christmas (Oct. 2015) It's Christmas time at Happy Skies Farm! Tillus the worm, Big Red, Sammy and the rest of the team are excited to celebrate the season. But Casey the farmer is busy working: feeding animals, repairing fences and planning for the year ahead. With so much to do, Casey wonders if she'll have time to prepare for the holidays. That's when Tillus and the team unite to make this Christmas extra special for their busy friend.



Meet the Author & Illustrator



Holly Dufek has spent nearly 15 years writing and editing educational curriculum for publishers such as Holt McDougal, National Geographic Education and Riverside Publishing. Holly has worked to develop content to enrich the National Common Core Standards for elementary through high school classrooms. She holds a master's degree in Education and lives in Kenosha, WI, with her husband, Matt, and their three children.

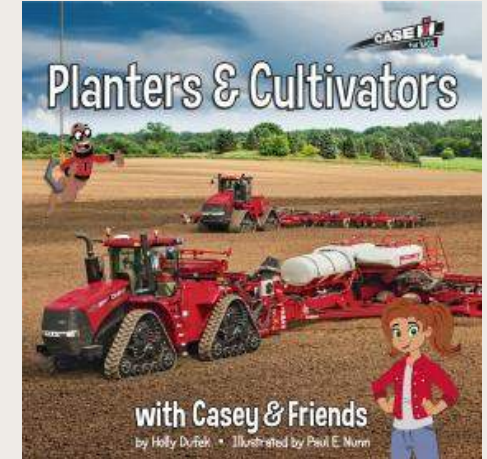
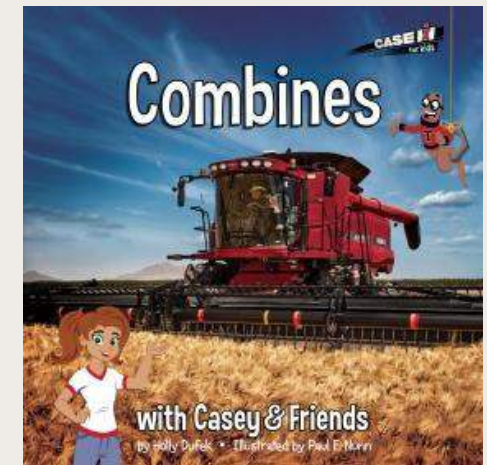
Paul E. Nunn is a freelance illustrator, artist and animator who has worked for Disney, Nickelodeon and Sesame Street. He lives in Racine, WI, with his wife, Amy, and their two children.

"Know a kid or two who thinks corn comes from the grocery's freezer section? Put 'em on track with *A Year on the Farm with Casey & Friends*...Plenty of detail combined with lots of color photos and illustrations makes this an engaging read for kids ages 4-8. A fun (and educational) read for kids and their grandparents!" —Leslie McManus, *Farm Collector Magazine*

About Octane Press

Octane Press produces high-quality narrative and illustrated books for discerning enthusiast audiences. Some of the company's best-known titles include *Red Tractors 1958–2013: The Authoritative Guide to IH and Case IH Tractors* and *Beast: The Top Secret Ilmor-Penske Engine that Shocked the Racing World at the Indy 500*. Octane Press has won several book awards, including IBPA Benjamin Franklin awards (*Red Tractors 1958–2013*, *Forward, Adventurous Motorcyclist's Guide to Alaska*) and Independent Publisher Awards (*In the Red*, *Red Tractors 1958–2013*).

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