



**Daniel Boggs**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region Aviation**

**Date: 7/23/2024 @0800**

**Subject: Leroy Schaffer-pilot interview, ERA24LA316**

Mr. Schaffer was interviewed by telephone,

Mr. Schaffer stated that he was taking a friend up for a flight. He performed a detailed preflight inspection and started his takeoff roll around 1430. During takeoff right when he lifted the tailwheel off the ground, the airplane immediately turned hard left and departed the side of the runway and bounced hard into a cornfield.

Mr. Schaffer said there was a right quartering crosswind during takeoff and the pilot rated passenger stated he thought the right wing came up when the tailwheel was lifted off the ground.

Daniel Boggs  
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