

My name is Andrew Johnson, but everybody calls me Drew. My parents are Scott and Patti Johnson of Farwell, Texas. I have three younger sisters. My parents have operated a silage harvesting business and farmed since before I was born. Almost all of my earliest memories are when I was out in the fields riding in the choppers, tractors or trucks. What a great way to grow up!

My parent's main goal was to keep me alive and out of the way of the trucks and machinery before I was five. By then, my job was to help clean out trucks and pickups. Moving a crew from field to field was great fun for a ten year old; learning to follow on dirt roads was exciting. During my summer vacations and on weekends, I was trained to pick up the slack of the operation, and there is always slack! I have operated the packing tractors, the choppers, the swathers, even the trucks on farm to market roads. For the past several years, I've trained new H2A workers. They can tear so much stuff up! They get lost even in our flat county with no trees!

Along with working with the harvest business, I have worked on our farm. We grow irrigated wheat, corn and milo. This past year was the first time we ever shelled our own corn! Since we are silage harvesters, we always chopped it. Getting to run a combine for the first time was a great thrill for me this fall!

Like other harvesting families, we work hard and we play harder! My sisters and I raise show steers and pigs as 4-H projects. The show season in Texas runs in the winter time, which works well with our harvest and farming operations.

Being raised around the harvesting business was a dream come true for a rural kid like me. I love big equipment, big tires, and big operations. I've gotten to be with my dad and benefit from his knowledge and insight. I learned to swim in the motel swimming pools where we stayed in the summer. I lived in a crammed up motel room with my parents and three sisters for months at a time. I've eaten about a million sandwiches on harvest, and I still like them! I've learned that hard work and long hours are necessary for businesses and families to grow. Because of my background around dairies and my involvement in animal projects, I've decided to major in Animal Nutrition at Lubbock Christian University in the fall of 2009. I plan on continuing to assist my family business whenever I can. I hope to return to this rural area upon earning my degree. I appreciate your consideration for this scholarship.

