

My family has been in the harvest business for almost 50 years. Originally started by my grandparents in 1960, the harvest became a defining multi-generational family business that included me when I was only 6 weeks old. I love custom harvesting. My involvement in the harvest has given me experiences that have and will continue to have an impact on my life.

As a child, I couldn't do much to help while on harvest, but I contributed in my own way and have gained a unique childhood. I learned to walk in Texas, attended Bible School in Oklahoma, saw my first movie (Pocahontas) in Kansas, learned to ride bike in South Dakota, and drove my first pickup in Minnesota. As I grew older, I learned how to drive combine, grain cart, and cook for a harvest crew.

In addition to harvest work, there is a harvest life that has shown me many different farming practices, the importance of being organized and how to meet new people. Being exposed to the various farming practices on harvest helped me in many of my school and civic activities. For example, with only one exception, all my 4-H projects through the years, in Crop and Soil Sciences, have involved wheat. As well as using my agriculture knowledge, I have also used the organizational skills I've gained on harvest to help earn many ribbons and awards for my projects. Most importantly, I have gained confidence in meeting new people. Because of all the time away from home, I have met some of my best friends on harvest, even though I only see them once a year. My favorite thing about being on harvest would definitely be meeting other harvest kids. My harvest friends and I understand each other because we were all experiencing similar things that go with the business, and missing friends back at our home communities. I wouldn't trade my summers on harvest for anything.

In conclusion, the years I've been on harvest have given me friends, memories, and skills that will insure that I succeed in the future. This fall, I will be enrolled at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, majoring in the Pre-Pharmacy program also minoring in Spanish. After I graduate from college, I plan to live near our family farm and still be involved with our family's operation.

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