

THE HARVEST TRAIL

To say that you have been on the custom harvest trail for eighteen consecutive years is something that only a few privileged men and women can say; but for me, it's all in the family. I have been on the crew since I was born, and custom harvesting is a long proud tradition with my family. My grandfather and great uncle started custom harvesting back in the early fifties and my father has harvested for almost every summer since he was born. So, I guess you could say it is in my blood.

Custom harvesters are a rare breed. It takes a special kind of person to be willing to get up early every morning, knowing that you probably won't see your pillow until midnight or later. I honestly have to say I love it; sure you can get tired and weary, but don't worry because the friendly summer rain clouds are always scouting us out to make sure we get a break. Custom cutters tell their prospective employees, "You'll either love this job or hate it." For me, there is no question that I love it; harvesting has had a huge impact on my life. While my classmates were running around and going to the pool, I was learning extremely valuable life lessons. Life lessons like hard work, working as a team, and responsibility. Knowing that if you do not do your job in a timely manner, a farmer could lose his livelihood for the coming year. Harvesting has taught me that everything you do in life should be done to the best of your ability; and, God willing, I hope to become a third generation harvester.

In the near future, my plans are to graduate from high school and to go on harvest this summer. In August, I have applied to attend Kansas State University where I will also be enrolling in the Army ROTC Program.