

I am a third generation custom harvester, with my Grandfather starting the business in 1949. I have made seventeen trips from Texas to Montana helping my family harvest wheat. Growing up on harvest I don't think I realized how unique our lifestyle is, I just thought it was neat to get out of school a few days early in the spring. As I got older, my responsibilities grew and I started to understand that there was more to harvesting than traveling and meeting friends in different towns. For many years, my job was to help make and deliver meals to the field for our crew. By junior high, I would take a combine to allow the driver to eat dinner and take a well earned break. Two years ago, I was able to get a seasonal CDL and began the intimidating process of learning to drive our wheat trucks. I plan to get a Class A CDL by the time wheat harvest begins this year. This past wheat harvest I was able to work at ADM Grain and be a part of the harvest from a different perspective. It was interesting and challenging to run the scales and take samples without confusing tickets, as well as, sending the trucks to the correct bins to unload. I am currently a freshman at Kansas State University and I plan to obtain a degree in business. I have seen the necessity of good management to operate a harvest business and I hope my degree in college along with my experience with my family's harvesting business will help me achieve my goals. I believe that my experience with harvest has taught me to work hard and be flexible in uncomfortable situations, without giving up. I believe that if I can learn to "unload-on-the-go", I can accomplish anything I put my mind to.

While there were things that I missed out on being gone from home every summer, I wouldn't change my experiences for anything. Some of my best friends are people that I would never have met if it weren't for the harvest run. Harvest has allowed me to see what a big world we live in, and I appreciate that because I know that not everyone will have the opportunities or the insight that I have been given. Thank you for considering being a part of my educational goals.