

Ever since I was little, I always remember helping out with harvest in some way, whether it was riding in the truck with dad or washing windows. Just before my 11th birthday, I told my dad that it was finally time for me to follow into the family business and make a full harvest run that summer. At the time, I thought it was going to be a piece of cake but I soon found out what harvest was really all about. When most kids my age were learning how to jump off the diving board, I was learning how to jump in and help unplug a combine that was buried up to my elbows in wheat, chaff, straw and dirt. Instead of playing with my toy pickups, I was learning how to grease combines and drive trucks.

During that first summer I was on the road, I quickly started to understand what makes this job so special. The fact that every day is different in some way or another, and that even though the work can be pretty brutal at times by the end of it you're able to look back and smile knowing that you have truly accomplished something over your summer. As the years have passed, I have learned how to talk with all sorts of fine people that we have worked for, but even more importantly, I have learned how to listen. Being able to see the same customers year after year is one thing I find very rewarding with this job. Many of them were first hand witnesses to see me grow from an energetic kid into a hard working young man. I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for all of my experiences I was able to have because of harvest.

Cutting wheat all summer gives me a lot of time to think and look at where my life is going. I plan to attend college at the University of Wyoming this upcoming fall and pursue a degree in Agriculture Communications. After college, I hope to be able to continue a career in agriculture. But one thing is for sure, I will always carry with me the self-confidence and the countless experiences I have gained from harvest.