

## **CUSTOM HARVESTING – A FAMILY TRADITION**

When I was a child, I always loved being around the field during harvest time. Like many other children, my favorite activity was definitely riding in the combine. I could not wait until I would actually be old enough to drive the combine. Before I knew it, I was fifteen and the time had come for me to go on harvest. At first, I was actually hesitant about going to Texas, Oklahoma, South Dakota and being away from home for part of the summer. But now, after going on harvest for three summers, I realize how harvest has impacted my life and taught me important values that will stick with me forever. I have learned how to always use my time wisely, be reliable, and the importance of always doing the job right. These qualities have helped my family stay in the business of custom harvesting for generations. My great grandpa started harvesting all the way back when threshing machines were used. My grandpa and his brother also went on harvest for many years before passing the tradition onto my dad and his brother. My dad and my uncle have been going on harvest for over thirty years now and know nearly everything there is to know about custom harvesting.

Although there are many different jobs involved in being on a custom harvesting crew, my main job for the past three years has been driving the combine. This takes a lot of caution and attentiveness, while still trying to get the job done quickly and efficiently. I also help with various repairs and the daily maintenance that is needed for the machines to operate correctly.

Next year, I plan to attend Kansas State University and major in agronomy. I would like to get a job as an agronomist around this area so that I can still be close and be involved with our farming/custom harvesting operation every chance I get.