

## THE IMPACT CUSTOM HARVESTING HAS HAD ON MY LIFE

When I was only eight years old, my father decided to start his very own custom harvesting company. I knew I would never be able to have a normal summer break from school and never be able to play T-ball again, so I nearly cried. As the first year started, I soon found that it wasn't as bad as I thought. There were so many new things to do and see that I never even knew existed. When I got back to school, I had stories of experiences that were unheard of at my school.

We started off small the first year. We only had one combine, but over time, it grew into a successful business. Soon it became too much for my dad and only one hired hand to handle, so I had to pick up the slack. I started off driving the tractor and grain cart from the truck to the combine and back again, and in the following year I could dump the combine on the go, quickly get to the truck, and fill a semi. When I was 14, my dad upgraded to two combines. By that time, my little brother was old enough to drive the tractor and grain cart, so I was placed on the new combine.

Custom harvesting has had a huge role in helping me decide what I want to do when I graduate from high school. I plan on attending Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas, and enrolling in the John Deere Tech program to become a John Deere Technician.

Throughout the many years of my life, I have been on the harvest run from Texas to North Dakota. I have learned skills such as driving and operating equipment, communication, mechanical and teamwork. When I look back on my experiences, I can say that I am truly part of something great.

