



Alex Carlson is the son of Travis and Tracy Carlson of Carlson Harvesting, Inc., of Goodridge, Minn.

Alex Carlson

A Life on the Road

Ever since I was little I always wondered why my dad would leave for eight months of the year with two combines and four strangers, but when I got older I finally understood that he harvested for a living. Then in 2009 I got to go with him and that's when I realized what he actually did during those months he was gone. We now had five combines and nine strangers going with us. This was an eye opening experience! Harvest has taught me many life lessons like respect, hard work ethic, responsibility, and how to get along with new people and new customers.



During my years of harvest I have made many new friends from all over the world, who were part of our crew. It has been amazing getting to know what other parts of the world are like and how their cultures differ from ours. During harvest season when operating the combine or tractor and grain cart I learned what it takes to keep each machine running day in and day out. The responsibility that comes along with being trusted to operate a piece of heavy machinery is great, and every year I get to help teach a new group of crew members all of these responsibilities. The work ethic that I have gained from my years of harvest is absolutely priceless to me. I enjoyed the long nights of operating the combine and harvesting the different types of crops.

After I graduate from high school this year I plan on attending a major university in Fargo, North Dakota to pursue my degree in Agronomy. My harvest experience has given me knowledge that I will be able to apply during my college years and in my future job. I now understand the importance of working hard. The late nights of being on harvest will definitely help me to achieve my degree.