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Growing up the son of a custom harvester, harvest wasn't always a pleasure. When I was young, harvest simply meant going far away from home, leaving friends, having nothing to do, and living in a small trailer. I loved tractors and combines, but harvest itself was something I dreaded. Many days before and during harvest were spent complaining to my parents about how badly I did not want to be there.



However as the years went on and I began to work and be a part of the crew as the grain-cart driver, harvest became much different. I started to become friends with our hired workers, who were a little bit closer to my age. I knew the route we would take across the midwest, and looked forward to the towns and friends we had along the way. Strangely, that little trailer even became like a second home. Harvest slowly changed from something I disliked as a child, to something very important to me as a young adult.

Looking back over my summers on the wheat harvest, I see how much I have benefited from it. I've made many good friends, seen miles and miles of beautiful nature, had a lot of laughs and memories in the grain cart, and learned to appreciate the American farmer more and more. I have gotten to know numerous farmers across the country, and though they may be very different, one thing remains the same in them all: they really love what they do. They love the land, love the planting and harvesting process, and I trust them to show that love through quality products. Some of the farmers I have gotten to know are good friends, and I am very thankful for the thing that brought us together: harvest.

I don't plan on being a harvester myself, but I do plan to take the lessons of hard work, respect, and integrity that I have learned on harvest into any field I may choose, be it ministry, missions, or social work. Some of my deepest convictions will always go back to the harvest.