

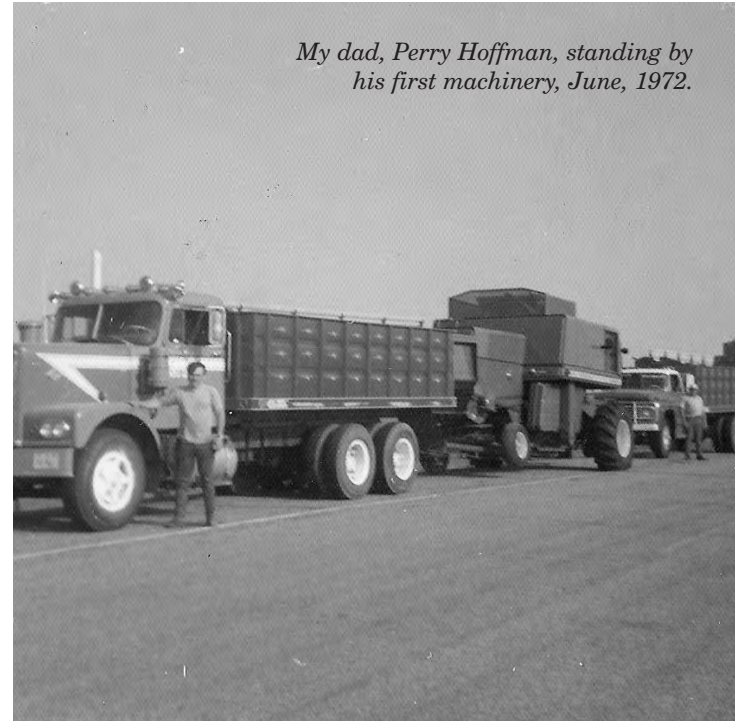
Jada Bulgin continues family legacy



My parents, Perry and Candice Hoffman, by their first camper.



Picture of me on my favorite harvest pickup.



My dad, Perry Hoffman, standing by his first machinery, June, 1972.

By Jada Bulgin

Hoffman Harvesting was established in 1972, when my father, Perry Hoffman, branched off from his father's (Milton "Pete" Hoffman) harvesting business to start his own harvesting business. In the beginning the business had two 6600 John Deere combines, two trucks and a 1 1/2 ton truck that was used as a service trailer. In 1974, my mother, Candice, joined my father's hand in marriage and the business.

My parents' hard work and dedication to the success of the operation is portrayed in their business today. The business currently operates four John Deere combines, which are supported by several auto-shift Kenworth trucks that are newly upgraded

for this year's harvest, a Kinze graincart and enough trailers and staff to move our entire operation in one trip. (While this last point might not seem like a big deal, it is a pretty new and incredible feat for our operation!)

My sister, Tara, and I were raised on the harvest and have always had a role in the family business. While other kids were chatting about the upcoming swimming lessons, softballs games, and other hometown activities they were looking forward to for the summer, we were looking forward to embarking on the 1,000-mile harvest and reuniting with harvest friends. Our family has always lived and worked in close quarters, which I feel is linked to the success of our family-run business.

I have always enjoyed the

life of the harvester and always took my role seriously. My "role" gradually gained importance. I remember how important I felt when I was assigned my first role: getting silverware ready for the field and making Kool-Aid for the crew. When I first learned to run a combine, I didn't think any role could get more important. Little did I know that my role would take on a completely different dimension than I ever imagined.

In 2006, I married Leon Bulgin and rejoined the family business after a two-year respite from the harvest world. It was fun to be back on the team full time as an adult. In 2010, Leon and I began the process of taking over the daily operations of the business so my parents could begin their quest for being semi-retired

from the harvesting business. This harvest we will continue to expand our roles in the business as my parents do not plan to join the harvest this summer. However, fourth-generation harvester Kaidence Lyn, our 1-year-old daughter, will be joining us.

I look forward to her having the same fond memories I had growing up on harvest, whether it is teaching her how to cook, taking her to the pool so she can make her own harvest friends or watching her take a ride in the machinery. Join us as we continue to grow into our most important role yet in 2011 on the All Aboard Harvest. I appreciate our sponsors for allowing me the pleasure of continuing to share our story and my parents for trusting us to be able to carry on their legacy.



Jada Bulgin

—Jada can be reached at jada@allaboardharvest.com.

Scott Clark joins All Aboard Wheat Harvest

By Scott Clark

I've been on the harvest trail for 20 years and this year I'll return as a guest correspondent for All Aboard Wheat Harvest. My name is Scott Clark and I'm from Kiowa, Kan., and my crew is American Quality Harvesting, Inc.

It's been a busy year for me at Oklahoma State. I'm the president of the American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers and

stay busy with other campus and community organizations. I guess you could say that keeping busy is just a product of being a custom harvester. This fall I'll start my senior year at OSU where I study Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, and Plant and Soil Sciences. I plan to work as a design engineer when I graduate from college—so I'm enjoying the harvest runs while I can with my family.

Our crew is managed by my dad, Kevin, who has 25 years of harvesting experience. We'll have a crew of 10 this season. I'll be traveling some this summer for my internship with an agricultural equipment manufacturer, but I'll still be sharing the harvesting experience with the All Aboard followers. I'll be reporting on harvest conditions, crop yields, weather and logistics that our crew, encounter on their trek from Oklahoma to North Dakota.

Areas of Texas and Oklahoma have been drought stricken in the past months, so the crew is already off to an irregular start as they will likely not even begin harvesting until June in southern Kansas. Acknowledging unrest is just part of custom harvesting, and Dad and



2010 harvest photo by Scott Clark.

his partners have decided to run three combines in the early part of the season to help reduce overhead and extra labor costs.

Weather has been on the minds of all of those in the wheat industry this year, and the business of custom harvesting is highly dependent on Mother Nature. It has already influenced decisions heavily this year before ever getting a combine to the field.

—Scott can be reached at scott@allaboardharvest.com.



Scott Clark

Section B

HIGH PLAINS
JOURNAL™

May 23, 2011