

Weather delays start of harvest as Miseners prepare equipment

Sunday, May 22



ABOVE—David doing some repair on one of our customer's combines.
RIGHT (top to bottom)—Dan and Joel painting my new combine rims. I say mine, because they're going on my combine!
—Dave, Joel and Thad mounting new tires on the rear axle of my combine.
—Tractor and grain cart loaded on the semi ready for transport to our first harvesting stop: Gotebo, Okla.
—David and Alexander trying to fix the tire. Even Alexander has some repair work to do on his own! Photos by Emma Misener. (Photos by Erin Misener.)



We started last week moving things to our first stop in Gotebo, Okla. Dave and Dan have moved the combines, tractor, grain cart and support equipment. In a few days we'll start taking the campers over. As usual plans have not exactly gone as planned. Our first farmer says that his wheat is still around 17 percent moisture. We expected to be harvesting by Friday, but due to the cooler temperatures and rain our harvest start will be delayed.

Since Dad's passing we've not only had normal challenges that we in the custom harvesting business experience but have other challenges added to our plates. His shoes need to be filled, but those are mighty big shoes to fill. We are managing and I can only come to one conclusion why. Dad is with us.

His enthusiasm hasn't left us and that passion he has instilled in us is evident in how we've managed to pick up and keep going. He would want us to carry on and do what we all love, which is harvesting. Part of our carrying on is getting back to doing the things we've always done to prepare for harvest. We've been doing some preventive maintenance on our own machines and machines for a few farmers in our area. We get them ready for the start of wheat harvest by checking bearings, walker blocks, chopping knives and feeder chains. We also do some of the simple things like checking guards, sections, belts and chains; changing engine and hydraulic oil; greasing; and cleaning out the cabs.

These combines are our offices, so it's important that they are clean and efficient—so that we can be as well.

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Hoffman keeping headers in the wheat, hands on the hydrostat

Thursday, May 19

Hoffman Harvesting is in Olney, Texas, harvesting.

While driving through the country the wheat doesn't look wonderful, but what especially affected me was when we drove through the Snyder, Okla., area and saw cows grazing a wheat field that was not worth cutting. With that and all the gossip about how awful the crop in Texas was, my expectations on the harvest were lowered considerably. However, to my surprise, things are better than anticipated. Farmers are receiving yields anywhere from 5 to 20 bushels per acre. While the yields aren't what most farmers would wish for, I would have to say that some crop is better than no crop. Chances of rain are in our future, but in the meantime we will keep our headers in the wheat and our hands on the hydrostat.

Being a Northerner, coming from cool spring weather that has barely breached the 50s, to 90-degree weather can take a while to get used to. However, when we arrived things were kind of chilly (for Texas). In fact, one night we even turned our heater on. This is the first time I remember ever having to do this.

The wheat harvest continues to go quickly and smoothly. Today, Kaidence and I ventured away from our usual schedule and visited our friend Garland at his belt and leather shop.

Saturday, May 21

Yesterday morning around 6 a.m. it started to rain. Since we needed some groceries, we headed in to Wichita Falls, Texas, and got stocked up. We also celebrated Johan's birthday. We had a great time. Tonight we hope to be able to cook out at the Campbells'—that is, if things don't dry off by this evening.

Sunday, May 22

Last night we were able to get back in the field. There are more forecasts for rain so it is good we were able to cut. You know how they say everything is bigger in Texas? Well, that is often the case when it rains here. I have never seen raindrops as large as I have here when



ABOVE—Two combines dump on the truck at once. (Photo by Jada Bulgin.)

it has rained. The wheat is yielding well. We have even seen some yields in the upper 20s to low 30s. Our farmer uses a no-till technique on his fields. He has also been experimenting with spraying

techniques that have proved to be successful.

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