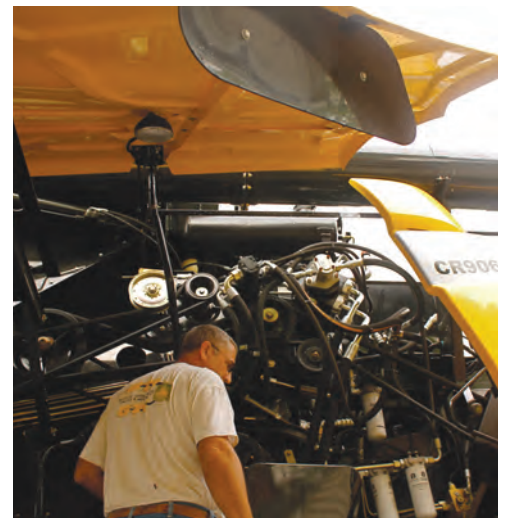


## Zeorian Harvesting sports a new color this year



ABOVE—The Zeorians switch from red to yellow. This is the Zeorian's new New Holland combine. (Photos by Jenna Zeorian.)

BELOW— Jim and Jenna in the cab of the new combine.



LEFT AND ABOVE—Jim Zeorian checking out the new combine.

### Thursday, May 26

If you already took a peek at the photos, you might be scratching your head and rubbing your eyes. Never fear—your sight is fine—that is indeed a yellow combine. After decades of running red, first Massey Ferguson and then Case IH, Zeorian Harvesting has switched colors and we're taking a New Holland out for a spin this summer.

Saying goodbye to red was a little sad—it was like saying goodbye to an old friend. But having the new machine is exciting and we're excited to see how it works out this summer. We (ahem, my parents) also invested in a MacDon draper header, so it's a whole new ball game, my friends.

We're off to a slow start this harvest season, as we lost our first couple of jobs,

then even job prospects, due to the drought in the South. Until last week, we didn't have a place to start. Things always have a way of working out though and I'm happy to report that we'll be kicking off the summer in Arnett, Okla.

Dad and I made the first trip to Arnett earlier this week, taking the combine and header. I'll post about that soon but I figured I better break the color-switch news first! The crew will be leaving Nebraska for good this upcoming weekend. In the meantime, we'll be busy packing and preparing. (And attending a Taylor Swift concert. Well, not Dad. Or Mom. But us girls.)

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## Weather delays harvest for the Miseners

This was my view from the combine.



Photos by Emma Misener.

### Tuesday, May 24

Rain has come to Oklahoma! We are back to our typical Oklahoma weather complete with tornadoes and hail.

There are good—and bad—things about these thunderstorms. The good thing is that it's helping the drought situation, but it's just too late to help the wheat and that's the bad part. We aren't the only ones getting severe weather. Joplin, Mo., was hit really hard, as most of you have probably seen, and although we haven't had the severe tornadoes or inches of rain that they have, we have had our share.

Monday a thunderstorm rolled through Gotebo, Okla., and other parts of the state. This storm had golfball- to baseball-sized hail and a tornado 4 miles east of town. We called our farmer right away and asked if he was able to ride out the storm. He told us that he did get some hail, but thankfully not enough to do much damage and the tornado was south of him. He was fortunate to miss the weather, but others aren't as lucky. We pray for those who lost what little crop they had left.

All this weather has our crew in "what's the plan" mode. Plans always change and ours have a couple of times. With this rain delay we are looking at leaving Wednesday. We hope that gives the wheat a little time to dry out. So, we'll stay around home and spend our time being productive—rather than sitting and watching the wheat dry.

Be safe out there, especially with all of these storms out there, and God bless!

### Thursday, May 26

Wednesday has come and gone, and we're still in Elk City. Moving equipment in 40 to 50 mph winds isn't only a hazard to the driver, but to others on the road as well. When it comes to safety the Miseners just don't take chances. Safety comes first.

We have a plan to make up for the lost day. We'll get up early, load the combine and hook up the trailers and head south for Gotebo, Okla. We're hopeful the wind won't be as strong earlier in the day. Once we arrive we're hoping the wheat is dry enough that we can just jump right in (or drive right in). This means our 2011 wheat harvest would begin—and I'm looking forward to it.

On Tuesday my sister Katie and her husband, Tim, brought their family from Atchison, Kan., to spend a few days with us. This means we had good little helpers keeping busy doing odds and ends around the shop.

Next time I post, it will hopefully be cutting wheat in Gotebo!

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ABOVE—(Left to Right) David, Victor (the farmer) sister Katie with Evie, Martha, Lauren, Joel, Elizabeth, Mom, and Abby, stopping to eat lunch in the field.

BELOW— The armadillos came right up to my feet.



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# Hoffman Harvesting enjoys Texas hospitality

Tuesday, May 24

There is just something about the people in Texas that emanates hospitality. They are always "fixin'" to do something, but even if you barge in uninvited, they always have the time for a quick howdy and a y'all come back now, ya hear! From the grocery store and post office to local repairmen and shops, you can always expect a friendly smile.

I really enjoy Olney. It's always felt like another home. This year we haven't been able to camp in our normal home—Spring Creek RV Park—but are enjoying our Echols campground all the same. It's amazing how quickly new things become "home" wherever you have your camper parked. Every morning we have to make the rounds to visit the neighbors, which is really fun. The campgrounds are full here and we are lucky that we were able to find a place to camp. There is currently a wind farm being built here outside of town and there are also oil people. All of them are camping here in Olney.

This morning the wheat was too wet to cut, so we extended our rounds from the campground to a make visit with Garland too. The boys ordered themselves some custom belts and wallets. We also stopped in at Steve's Repair shop to check on my pickup, and it's still not fixed. The closest part Steve could find for my truck was Houston. So once again I am without a vehicle while we wait for the part to get here. Thank goodness I am getting used to the heat now. There's no problem walking to where you need to be—it just takes more time. However, I miss going out to the field whenever I need to or want to without having to wait for a ride.

What I am digging today—Billy Hubbard's mobile catering kitchen. Not only is Billy a welder in town, he also is in the catering business along with his wife. Since January he has cooked 89 briskets and last week served an event he fried fish for. They cook about anything you can imagine but his specialty is his brisket. Billy said his goal is to get to around 700 briskets by December. In fact he has 30 cases of brisket on hold at the grocery store to help him reach his goal (each case has five briskets). We helped him out with his count by ordering some brisket. He started cooking it at 1 p.m. and it was done by 7

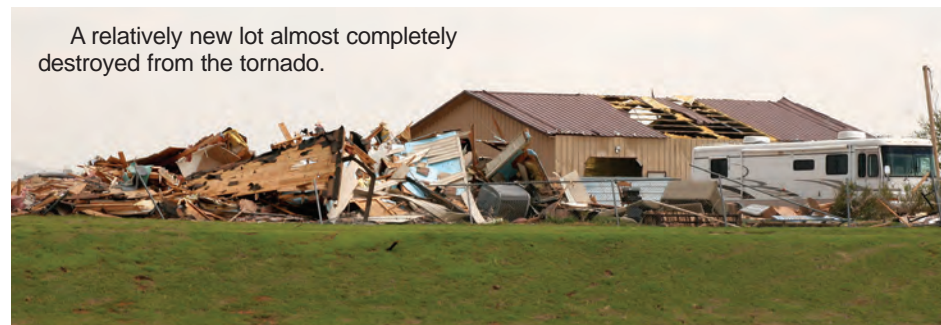


Billy fires up his mobile cooking machine to cook briskets. (Photos by Jada Bulgin.)

p.m. He cooked the brisket over an open fire on his mobile kitchen he is currently in the process of making using his welding skills. The mobile kitchen is equipped with four cookers and two large workstations. Soon it will also feature a sink that will have the capabilities for both hot and cold water, four large restaurant-grade fryers and several workstations surrounding the outside. To finish it all off, Billy wants a huge sound system that will only play 60s and 70s rock and roll—his kind of music.

Thursday, May 26

Our harvest in Olney, Texas, was complete last night. Today we are wrapping things up and getting loaded. It has been really windy to the point that it felt like we were experiencing what the Dust Bowl of the 1930s must have felt like. OK, I am exaggerating, but in my photos you will see dirt—not sky or fog—flying around. In addition to the wind, our farmer had a fire in one of his pastures. It took two days to put it out. I didn't want to get in the way so I never did get to actually see the



A relatively new lot almost completely destroyed from the tornado.

fire due to the dust flying. It's a miracle they were able to control it despite the wind. Tonight, we will make plans for our annual Campbell Cookout, my favorite thing to do in Olney!

While the park is not usually busy, yesterday we crashed a kindergarten party in the park. There were 40 kids the same age as Kaidence's cousin, Brady, and Kaidence loved it. The park has so many things for kids of all ages to do. It is a great place to spend a slow afternoon or to get out of the camper. There is a club in town that has worked really hard to get it in the condition it is and I think they did a wonderful job.

Friday, May 27

Hoffman Harvesting is moving up the road today. Our next job isn't ready and the word is that there are several harvesters looking for work in Oklahoma. So we will head up the road to see if there is any work but if not, will be ready to go for our next job. We loved our annual Campbell Cookout, and we'll miss our friends here in Olney.

Monday, May 30

Hoffman Harvesting is caught up. We are looking for work in Oklahoma as we are waiting for the wheat ripen in Kiowa, our next stop. The past day we stayed in Oklahoma City on an impromptu family vacation because we were in the area searching for work. We went to the Oklahoma City Zoo and had a great time. I don't remember the last time we had a day where we had a

couple days off without worries of needing to do something or be somewhere. It almost makes you feel guilty.

Today we are working on some things and are back at the search for work. The wheat is just barely ready in the area we are in. We saw the damage Oklahoma City received this past week due to tornado storms. Allen Funk Harvesting was in the area and lost a combine, truck and trailer. Thurman Harvesting also owns a boat house in the area the storm hit and lost everything. We have heard of even worse stories where people have died or were in critical condition. In addition, we have heard some stories that had to be a miracle. One couple sought shelter under their porch. When they came out, the house was gone but their shelter remained intact. Some of the stories are almost funny as no one got hurt. Two men ran outside to get a piece of baseball-sized hail. Afterward they were aware of their stupidity and thought how they could have been a newspaper headline. Another woman bought a brand new car and put it in her garage because she thought it would be better off then out in the elements. She took her husband's truck into town to seek shelter and after the storm came home to find the garage gone and her new car in a tree. No matter if the story is funny, filled with damage or despair, we pray for the folks that have experienced these horrific storms.

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