

Misener family friends visit

Wednesday, June 29

Our harvest crew is somewhat different than most crews. We get our hired help from college or high school students, or hire those that “run in the family.” Marty is a great example of that because his older brother Kevin started the tradition of going on harvest with us in 2004—the same year Erv arrived for the first time. Since Kevin worked for us, Marty joined and now their younger brother Austin has been dying to come. He says he has “a year and a half until I get to come.”

Joel is also back for a second year, and his sister Olivia was here last year. Many siblings have come to enjoy this lifestyle and they’re always back for at least a visit. I guess you can see that when you harvest with the Misener crew you are in for life, and an adopted member of this family.

Erv has also headed back home to Michigan where his wife and family live. Erv is the life and soul of the party—he may be 65 years old, but he’s definitely a child at heart. I will say I’ll miss his good attitude toward life, his willingness to any job big or small and his spunk every morning. This won’t be the last time we see Erv though, I’m sure of it. Every year he says he can’t come back, but always manages at visit for at least two weeks.

Thursday, June 30

Judy Horsch from the Andale, Kan., area stopped by and paid us a visit. Judy is the granddaughter of the man who inspired the custom har-

vesting profession, Joe Tucker. Tucker was the Massey-Harris vice president and sales manager who thought of the Harvest Brigade in the 1940s. With the U.S. at war, the government asked that farmers plant more acres because of the inadequate food supply for the American people, our troops and allies. Over 14 million additional acres were planted in 1944 and although the acres were planted, harvest was looking bleak because there wasn’t a labor force or resources available to accomplish harvest.

Tucker became aware of the need to harvest America’s wheat crop and make sure it was not lost. Tucker’s plan sent 500 Massey Harris combines on the Harvest Brigade during WWII in 1944 and 1945—and this brigade literally fed the world.

Saturday, July 2

We have arrived in Gregory, S.D., and not only is it a little cooler the wheat looks fantastic. I feel like I need a sweatshirt up here, and that seems crazy considering we faced triple digits while we were in Kansas. I’m excited to get rolling with harvest up here, but we’ve got about three weeks to wait.

Monday, July 4

Let me start off with a big Happy Birthday America! It’s Independence Day and on behalf of Misener Family Harvesters I say thank you soldiers—past and present for serving this country, standing up for what you believe in and being selfless in your

service to keep this beautiful country free. We can’t forget to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as well. Without those serving this country we would not be able to enjoy the luxuries we have, and the ones we sometimes take for granted.

My dad served in Vietnam, and my grandfather Dick Green served in Korea. My cousins Blade and Travis Schallenberger are currently serving in the United States Air Force.

Last week Mom, Dan and I managed to move part of our convoy to Gregory, S.D. The rest of our crew went in the opposite direction—back south to Elk City, Okla., where our home is. Right now the Miseners have a little bit of down time as we wait for wheat to ripen in South Dakota. Fortunately for us we always have projects on the back burner to keep us busy. One of these projects is fixing up a John Deere all-crop head and cleaning up the shop. We’ll probably stay in Elk City for another four or five days before we head out again, of course that all depends on how much work gets done.

Emma Misener can be reached at emma@allaboardharvest.com.



Judy Horsch stopped by to visit us. She is the granddaughter of Joe Tucker who started the Harvest Brigade during WWII. Thus the custom harvesting lifestyle was born.



Marty (above left) with Jude, Dan, and Kevin with Roch. Marty has worked with us for three years, and Kevin, Marty’s brother, came for a year prior to Marty.



At left, the Misener crew had a fantastic surprise when Jerry from DuPont showed up with lunch.

Roland harvesters play the waiting game



Brandon fuels up his combine as we wait to sample the field again.

Tuesday, June 28

We ran into some green wheat at the beginning of this weekend and unfortunately we’re still waiting on some of it to turn. Most of the fields are ripe but there are a fair amount of green kernels still scattered throughout the fields. We tried to patch out the field to mix the grain but the moisture was too high to continue cutting. Yesterday morning it was cloudy and extremely humid all day so we fueled up everything and worked on some general maintenance. Waiting is always a tough for any harvester to deal with but we’re hoping to get started up again today.

Megan Roland can be reached at crew@allaboardharvest.com.



This is a perfect sample of what our wheat fields are made up of at the moment. On the left is a ripe head of wheat and on the right is a green head of wheat.



May 2001: (left) Part of the crew fuels up in Alliance, Neb., before heading south for the harvest run. In case you cannot see the sign, it says \$1.72 per gallon for on-road diesel.



Dad works on updating the computer software in his CR.



It was a team effort to install a new seat in the tractor. Brandon, James, Jason, and Dad work on putting it together in the shade of the grain cart.

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Reunited and it feels so good



"Look, Ma! No hands!" My first time running the New Holland and using auto steer.

Saturday, July 2

On Wednesday morning, I woke up and thought, "I'm going to visit the family this weekend." Rather spur-of-the-moment.

The Zeorian crew had been on the road for over a month and I was missing my family and harvest. I called Dad to see what he thought of the idea and his reply was along the lines of, "Well, I don't care what you do." Ha! Perfect.

I asked Dad not to tell Mom or my younger sisters, Taylor and Callie, so I could surprise them. Luckily he only had to keep the secret for one day—he's not very good at keeping secrets. On Thursday afternoon, I left Omaha after a short day of work and headed for Deerfield. It was about a 450-mile/8-hour drive, so I arrived in Deerfield just before dark.

I spent yesterday (Friday) in the field and I think I had a big, goofy grin on my face the entire day. Mom and Dad probably thought I was a weirdo. I just can't really describe how it felt to feel, taste, smell harvest again—it felt like I was home. My heart was happy. It still is. Plus, I got some run-time in the new combine, so that was sweet. Side note: Auto steer blows my mind.

We should finish cutting in Deerfield this afternoon, as we're working on the last field right now. The crop here, for the most part, has been pretty unbelievable considering the dry year. The dry land fields averaged anywhere from 40 to 60 bushels per acre, while the pivots have made 70 to 90, and sometimes more. The wheat quality is good, with an average test weight around 60 to 61 pounds.

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A 115-degree day and wheat chaff all over.



Time to unload.



Hoffman Harvesting finally able to get into the field

Thursday, July 28

Meet Roland Baird, a 21-year-old returning for his second harvest run with us. You can see him most days running combine #4. He also did most of the seeding for us at home this year. This actually happens to be one of Roly's jobs at home, too. He works for a large farmer in Scotland.

Roly first decided to come to America on harvest because he wanted to gain more experience in agriculture and wanted to learn more about farming in America.

Fun Fact: Roly went on his first harvest with us two years ago. That year he turned 19 in Texas. Notorious for sleep walking, we are glad Roly is tall enough to hit his head and wake up before taking a midnight stroll through the campground.

Wednesday, June 29

Hailing from Sweden, Andreas (Moses) Norling is a 21-year-old joining us on his first harvest. His main duties are taking turns between driving truck and running combine but he is also in charge of overseeing anything that needs to be immaculate—this would include management of wheel shining.

Andreas decided to work overseas because his dad did it 26 years ago. Coming from working on his parents' farm, Andreas especially enjoys seeing all the different farms,

meeting new people and getting to go to so many different places.

Fun Fact: Andreas speaks English as a second language. It's hard to tell because his accent fits in so well here.

Friday, July 1

Hoffman Harvesting is now in Colby, Kan. We tested yesterday but the wheat was just not dry enough. Two days in the triple digits was all it took to bring the wheat down to the moisture percentage we needed to be at. We began the day with 12 to 14 percent moisture and by suppertime a load was at 8.5 percent thanks to the 111-degree day we survived today.

The wheat is surprisingly doing quite well with yields averaging in the 40s and test weights weighing in at 61. Everyone is just getting started but the harvest will go fast in this area. Acres are down because farmers didn't think their crop would amount to much due to the drought. As a result, some fields were left unseeded/unplanted.

Monday, July 4

Happy Independence Day! Hope this post finds you in the field or at least in a festive mood. Hoffman Harvesting is at the point where we had to take a break from harvesting because of green wheat and rains that hit



The wheat in Colby is yielding well. They received a bit more rain than other areas.

the Colby and Goodland, Kan., areas.

We hope to get in the field tomorrow, but in the meantime will enjoy a festive 4th of July cookout and a fireworks show. They shoot fireworks off at the Colby Fairgrounds where we are camping. It is as close as you can get to the action.

Jada Bulgin can be reached at jada@allboardharvest.com.



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Hailing from Sweden, Andreas Norling is a 21-year-old joining us on his first harvest.

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