

## Zeorians have a whirlwind week



Jamie snapped this photo of a storm cloud as we neared the Montana border.

### Wednesday, August 17

It's been a whirlwind of a week for a couple of reasons.

Reason one: When I posted last Monday, Zeorian Harvesting had basically just finished the move from Limon, Colo., to Jordan, Mont., and started cutting. Since then, we've already finished in Jordan and

moved to a job farther west, near Lewistown, Mont.

Years ago, Jordan was the biggest stop on our route. We used to cut in Jordan so long that when my older sister, Jamie, and I were in elementary school, we would start school there and transfer back to our school in Nebraska once finished.



We climbed to the top of a butte to get a better look around.



A bit of Montana wheat.

One year, we were there until October—I actually remember not only breaking out our winter coats but actually seeing snow flakes, too.

As the years have gone by, though, the number of acres to cut have dwindled. Many farmers have bought their own combines and the weather has also played a key role. This year, for example, too much moisture prevented spring wheat from being planted and hail also claimed a number of acres. It's crazy to think that a stop that used to take months now only takes a few days.

Whirlwind week, reason two: In a matter of just a couple of days, Jamie, Curt (Jamie's husband) and I traveled almost 2,000 miles—to Jordan and back, that is. Because my younger sisters, Taylor and Callie, start school this week, the three of us went to Jordan to pick them up and

bring them home.

We left home (near Omaha, Neb.) last Wednesday evening and arrived in Jordan on Thursday. We had hopes of catching harvest in action but missed it by about a day. So the family spent Friday and Saturday doing some things we don't normally do—going to the county fair, driving to the lake and spending time with friends.

On Sunday, the "kids" left Jordan—and the parents. We made the 900-mile, 15-hour drive home (holy smokes, long day!), while Mom and Dad moved to the next stop near Lewistown. They'll have to fend for themselves for the next couple of weeks, until it's time to head home.

Jenna Zeorian can be reached at [zeorian@allaboardharvest.com](mailto:zeorian@allaboardharvest.com).

## Hoffman Harvesting moves into North Dakota

### Tuesday, August 16

We are excited to have everyone back together in Bowdle. The harvesting continues to move at a snail's pace but we are making some progress despite the short days.

Today a new crew member joined us—well, for a couple days. Matt from DuPont stepped out of the comforts of "the cities" (Minneapolis, Minn.), where he has lived for the majority of his life, to live the life of a harvester. The days seem to move by in a blur when we are on the farm. By morning we are farmers until the wheat is ready then we turn into harvesters. Today he received more of a tour and a sampler of what harvesters do all day. Tomorrow we'll give him the entree and put him to work...or not! Either way, we hope he'll learn more about our lifestyle.

### Friday, August 19

Yesterday we were unable to show Matt what it's like to live the life of a harvester because we received rain. Since it's August and our days are limited to enjoy the river, Hoffman Harvesting ran

over to Mobridge for a much needed lazy river day with Kraft Harvesting.

Hoffman Harvesting was able to cut today, but soon storm clouds lurked above our field and once again we received rain and our day ended short. Things are starting to get ready in Regent, N.D., so we are beginning to make plans to move part of our operation north. It is kind of a rush to have a lightning show and storm clouds ready to dump rain on you at any moment. It is a race with time to get as much cut before the rain renders your combine useless. The wheat we were cutting had a 16 protein and was yielding around 35 to 40 bushels per acre.

### Saturday, August 20

Part of our crew including me made the move to Regent, N.D. Unfortunately, we received rain while on the road. Talk with other harvesters confirms that a lot of the wheat is not quite ready, but some were in the fields prior to the rainfall cutting some fields that were ready early. However, a lot of the wheat is just turning.

Leon met with our farmer today to check things out and see if any of our fields look ready to test. In the meantime, the rest of the crew remains in Bowdle to finish up our wheat harvest there.

### Sunday, August 21

Late yesterday afternoon, we were able to get in a field and cut some seed wheat for our farmer. The wheat was yielding 30 to 45 bushels per acre, test weight was 59 and the protein 15.3. The one field is all we were able to cut because the wheat rest of the wheat is just starting to turn.

Today we were able to get in the field and starting cutting canola. There are two ways you can cut canola: with a straight header or a pickup header (if the canola is windrowed). We are cutting it with our draper (straight) headers.

Canola is a delicate crop. Windy conditions are not good for the crop as you can lose seeds or the canola can "shell out," affecting the yield. The best way is to cut it with a straight header because windrowing it can also shell out some of the seeds.

However, there is more of a risk if the crop is left standing.

In the field we are cutting, some of the seeds have shelled out from wind but the canola is still doing good with a yield of 30 to 40 bushels per acre. We look forward to tomorrow as more of our team members are bringing another combine to Regent to join our harvesting efforts here.

Jada Bulgin can be reached at [jada@allaboardharvest.com](mailto:jada@allaboardharvest.com).



The cutting conditions in Roscoe were tough because the wheat was lodged, we had to cut close to the ground to catch all the heads, and rocks have surfaced from all the flooding the area has received.



A view of our field from up above.



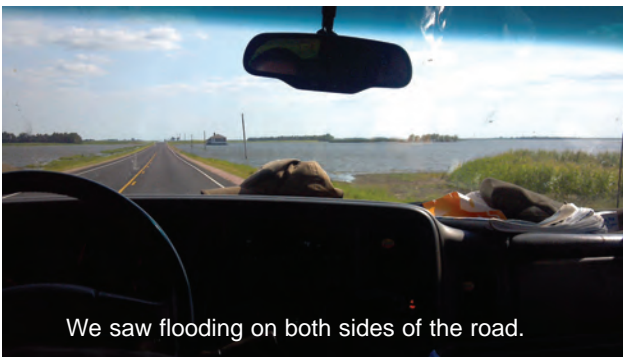
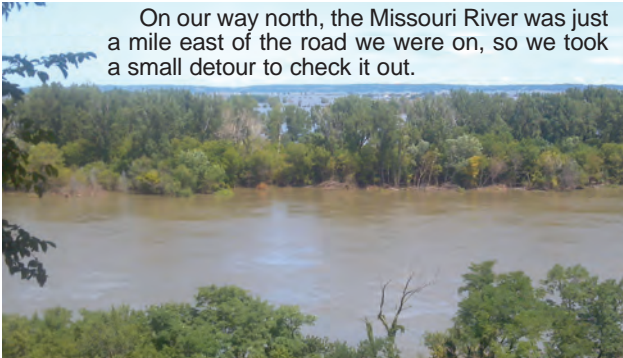
Callum checks to make sure too much wheat isn't getting thrown over. If it is, settings on the combine need to be changed in order to avoid volunteer in the field next year.

## Miseners finish wheat harvest for the summer

**Friday, August 19**

Gregory is off of the map for Misener Family Harvesters, and that means we're off to a new place. Normally around this time of year we move to Rolla, N.D., which is

On our way north, the Missouri River was just a mile east of the road we were on, so we took a small detour to check it out.



We saw flooding on both sides of the road.

10 miles from Canada. Our farmers in Rolla didn't get all of their fields planted because of the wet conditions and only got 30 percent of their acres in.

We can't afford to move the entire convoy 450 miles to cut less than half the normal acreage. This isn't a problem for our farmers there because they have combines that usually run with ours, so this year they will harvest themselves.

We moved to Sioux Falls because this is where we do our fall harvesting. This means that with Gregory in the books, our summer wheat harvest is completed. We have cut our last wheat crop for the 2011 season, which is kind of bitter-sweet. It's a good feeling knowing we're moving on to fall harvest, but sad because the end of the year is approaching and we won't be on the road anymore. I really enjoy our lifestyle and love the traveling and people we meet along the way.

To keep busy until fall crops are ready we had a few calls from a few farmers for combine repair and getting them field-ready. This is definitely something we can do for them, and we're happy to be busy—rebuilding combines is what we do in the winter months.

**Saturday, August 20**

My Mom's birthday is Aug. 10, so we decided it was a very good reason to celebrate. It had been a while since we were all together—I think it was in December when my Dad passed away—and nine months is a long time. I can't believe it's been that long since he's been gone. Sometimes it feels like just yesterday he was here. We have to keep our heads high and remember that we will see him again someday.

**Sunday, August 21**

We happened to go through Home, Kan. My Grand-

mother, Margaret Green (Mom's mother), was born and raised there. My great-grandparents came to America on a boat from Germany. They found Home, and called it home! Grandpa Florian Beiberstien was a blacksmith and was married to Grandma Gerva Beiberstien. He built a blacksmith shop and a lovely house and made their living. Today, both buildings still stand, and it was a great honor to go see and sit in the same place that they once did. The house still has people living in it too.

We continued across Kansas to Atchison, dropped the girls off, and headed to Sioux Falls. With all of the flooding in Nebraska, the interstate was closed from the Kansas/Nebraska line to the northern edge by Sioux City, Iowa. The trip was the longest I have ever had. It took us an extra hour and a half to go on the highways and byways, and with all the interstate traffic on the country roads—it just made things go slower. We also stopped in Nebraska City, Neb., at the Lewis and Clark Center.

**Monday, August 22**

A few days off at the right time of the year is not without perks. We moved a few loads from Gregory, S.D., and then stayed a couple of days in the Sioux Falls area. The Sioux Empire Fair was going on while we were there and I welcomed the opportunity to check it out with open arms. I honestly can't remember the last time I had been to a fair. For us, summer is not vacation time, but this year everything fell into place for a well-deserved break.

Emma Misener can be reached at [emma@allaboardharvest.com](mailto:emma@allaboardharvest.com).

## Rolands whittle away in Worland

**Thursday, August 18**

Roland Harvesting wrapped up things in Worland this past weekend and moved north near Powell. Aside from the frightening bridge accident, Worland was a successful stop for us. The barley ended up doing well, considering much of the crop had been hailed earlier in the summer. In Powell the barley is also doing great, with above average yields. The ideal climate for malt barley is warm days and very cool nights, with plenty of water. In Wyoming, irrigation canals and gated pipes, along with center pivots, are the "norm" for farmers in the state. Many of the crops they raise in the area such as sunflowers, beets, beans, alfalfa, wheat and malt barley all do extremely well with ample amounts of water throughout the growing season.

Now for majority of the summer all of the crews at All Aboard have been discussing our harvest operations involving wheat, but around this time of year many of us venture into other crops. As I discussed earlier, we tend to harvest mostly malt barley while we are in Wyoming during the month of August and into the beginning of September. Almost all of the malt barley we harvest is hauled into grain elevators that are directly connected with beer companies—in the areas we work in it is mostly Anheuser-Busch and Coors. Due to the high quality that these breweries demand, the malt barley is tested carefully and it has to reach certain standards to be accepted into the elevator. Many of these tests that are done reflect upon the grower; however, as harvesters we can influence factors such as the amount of dockage. By turning up the fans in the combine and manipulating the sieves along with changing the rotor speeds and concave settings we can minimize the amount of foreign material that is intermixed with the grain so that

it will be a clean sample at the elevator. By manipulating the combine settings we also minimize the damage to the malt barley kernels. In addition, we can check the moisture and yields on our monitors in the combine.

After the malt barley is harvested we haul the grain into the elevators and from there the barley is then sent to a malting plant, and finally to a beer brewery. It is estimated that in one bushel of barley around 30 gallons of beer is made from that. To put this in perspective, one full truckload of barley holds around 900 bushels, and we haul in numerous loads every day.

Typically, barley needs to be under 13.5 percent moisture—about the same as wheat. Average test weights for barley are around 48 pounds per bushel and ideally protein should be lower than 13 percent. Standard barley yields range from around 100 to 125 bushels per acre. Also, for high-quality barley the plump needs to be around 80 percent or better. The remainder of this is called thins and you want this number to remain very low.

**Saturday, August 20**

In 1997, Roland Harvesting teamed up with Barnes Harvesting to take on a large job near Hamer, Idaho, to harvest 6,000 acres of irrigated wheat. Jeff and his brother, Greg, operate Barnes Harvesting and they reside in Hickman, Calif., during the off season. Dad and Jeff both attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California from 1974 to 1978. They had many classes together at college and have remained friends and harvest associates since.

Megan Roland can be reached at [crew@allaboardharvest.com](mailto:crew@allaboardharvest.com).



A view from inside Dad's combine cab of a malt barley field near Powell, Wyo.

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