

Summer comes to a close for Miseners

Thursday, August 25

While we're in the Sioux Falls area, my Dad's side of the family decided to get together and have a sort-of reunion last Saturday. We spent the afternoon talking and telling stories, and of course there were munchies all over the place.

My brother Dan had the opportunity to go with my cousin Chris up near where we used to live in South Dakota. They had heard of a tractor that was for sale that used to belong to my Dad's parents, Don and Alda. It is a John Deere 50 tractor that was bought brand new. Years later it was bought by someone in Reville, S.D., and they have owned it since then. Dad knew they owned it and had been trying to buy it since the late 80s. Dan, Joel, Thad, Christoph and Chris purchased it, loaded it up and hauled the old girl home. I think Dad

would be proud. This is definitely a family heirloom and we're glad she's home.

Saturday, August 27

My grandparents Dick and Margaret Green came to visit us from Montana. I always look forward to their visit, and I wouldn't trade the laughing, talking and storytelling for the world. I love to hear Grandma whistling while she washes dishes. Grandpa was a part of the Montana legislature, and it's fun to hear him talk about standing up for what he believes in.

I suppose if there is a blessing in disguise in Dad's passing it's learning to see the many blessings life has bestowed upon all of us. Dad may not be here, but I know he's here laughing and telling his own stories right along with us. I love ya, Daddy.

I've been looking around the country-

side and all the miles we've traveled these past couple weeks, and I can't help but notice the trees are changing to their fall colors. This change of weather is bittersweet. I love summer harvest and pulling into a wheat field with the smell of wheat hitting your nose. The amber waves of grain blowing peacefully as you look across a field, and I'm always amazed at how quickly tiny kernels add up. Most of all I love knowing that I, as one person, help feed the world.

Take a lesson from wheat. Did you know that one stalk of wheat cannot stand alone, and that it needs help from others to support it throughout its entire life? Without that support it would break off and die. Maybe we should lean on each other more from time to time, like when a neighbor might need support and help getting back



My grandparents, Dick and Margaret Green, came from Montana and brought their RV to camp with us.

up on their feet.

Thank you All Aboard Wheat Harvest for the experiences I have had with this opportunity, and to help better educate the people of the world about agriculture. I also want to thank *High Plains Journal* and DuPont for their sponsorship, and all the sponsors who help make All Aboard Wheat Harvest possible. Be safe and God bless.

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

American Quality harvests wheat and canola in N.D.



The crew took some time to learn about a different color of combine as we explore our options for trading equipment this next season.



We've been hauling a lot of the wheat to the farmer's bins but sometimes have to wait on the trucks when the farmer moves the auger from one bin to another.



A couple of combines finish up a patch of canola.

Monday, August 29

American Quality's crew arrived in Regent, N.D., a couple weeks ago and found the wheat was still green in the area. We also harvest canola in North Dakota, but the canola was too wet to harvest as well. We did manage to get into the fields and begin harvesting canola just over a week ago—about the same time I started my last year of classes at Oklahoma State University. Due to the slow ripening of the crops we've been moving around the state from Regent to Minot and everywhere in between spot cutting where we can.

Thankfully it doesn't take much time or effort to adjust combines for harvesting wheat and canola. We should be able finish up the large part of our wheat harvest this week and will soon begin moving back south and configuring the combines for corn and soybean harvest.

Tuesday, August 30

The canola has been yielding from 1,500 to 2,600 pounds per acre. Due to the moisture, many producers in have experienced a lot of regrowth of the plants and some fields even have several yellow canola flowers blooming

again.

The wheat we've been harvesting around Interstate 94 has been making from 13 to 35 bushels per acre. The average is 28 bushels per acre for the acres that we've harvested so far. Most of the tests weights have still been running between 59 to 61 pounds.

It's hard to believe the summer has passed so quickly! I'd personally like to thank all of our followers who have joined All Aboard Wheat Harvest this year, as well as the ones that I have seen support us for the last three years. I participate in AAWH and write for *High Plains Journal* to tell our story and the stories of all custom harvesters and producers out there laboring day in and day out. Agriculture is a tiring job that many people have no desire to attempt—and many days I understand why. However, I hope our efforts have helped you to remember how much work it takes to get food from the field to the table. I'd also like to thank DuPont Crop Protection for sponsoring our crews this year, and all the sponsors who make it possible to share our lives.

Scott Clark can be reached at crew@allaboardharvest.com.



A harvest shot taken in Kansas.

Monday, August 29

Another harvest season has come and gone. It's the time of year that most custom harvesting crews are wrapping up their summer wheat harvest and heading home to cut fall crops or beginning their fall harvest route.

Zeorian Harvesting finished our summer harvest about a week ago, ending our three-month season in Denton, Mont. Mom and Dad, who are all that are left of our "crew" in the northern country, spent several days looking for more work but weren't able to come up with anything. So they've started the clean-up,

pack-up, load-up process, and will soon be on their way home to begin the soybean and corn harvest.

Meanwhile, the other half of the 2011 crew, my younger sisters, Taylor and Callie, are already back in Nebraska and back to school—back to "our other life," as we often describe it.

Anyone who's been on the harvest run knows what we mean. It's always a strange feeling to go from living a life that ultimately really only revolves around the wheat and the weather, to a more typical, scheduled, less fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants type of life.

As the 2011 All Aboard Wheat Harvest tour comes to a close, I would like to thank *High Plains Journal*, DuPont and all of the tour sponsors for again providing and supporting this avenue which allows myself and fellow correspondents the opportunity to share our lifestyle with the world.

And here's a big shout-out to you, the readers, followers and friends: Thank you. Thank you for your support, loyalty and general awesomeness.

Since I wasn't actually on the road this summer, I wasn't able to post as frequently as I had in past years, and I missed it—I missed you! I've learned that you all are what make this experience meaningful, and if I could shake the hand of every one of you who have made All Aboard a part of your life throughout the past three years, I would. Have a blessed year, my friends.

Jenna Zeorian can be reached at zeorian@allaboardharvest.com.

So long, sweet summer



You guys knew I had to keep the tradition alive, right?



Ready to be on the road again.

Broken bolts give Hoffman crew the breakdown blues



Johan comes to dump Oak on the go.



Johan, Leon and Damon work on the header with their little helper, Kaidence.



I don't know where this cloud ended.

Monday, August 22
The day was filled with many errands including moving the crew trailer to Regent, N.D. A water-main break the day we moved to Regent left us without a camping spot in Regent, so we had to park in New England. Camping spaces opened up in Regent, which is closer to our fields, so we moved the crew trailer. We left my camper in New England because the plan was to take my camper directly to Bismark to get some

warranty work done tomorrow. Plans quickly changed as I was preparing to turn into town. My brake assembly broke and my back passenger wheel locked up. Instead, tomorrow morning will be dedicated to getting my pickup fixed. When you have a limited amount of vehicles—in our case, two—that you rely upon daily, a breakdown is not at all welcome.

Wednesday, August 24
Hoffman Harvesting is having

the breakdown blues. You know how they say bad luck comes in threes? Well, today, I think that was the case. We were able to get my pickup fixed but by then we had another breakdown in the field. Concave motor bolts broke on one of our combines when a slug of canola went through the combine. Then shortly after supertime a bracket broke on the draper. It took awhile to fix but it was up and running before we left the field this evening. The crazy

part is broken bolts were involved in all these breakdowns.

Leon changed his title to Mr. Fixit for the day as he had to fix my pickup, a combine and a header—all in a day's work. What a handy guy!

Friday, August 26
Hoffman Harvesting continues to work in Regent, N.D. My posts are probably making you dizzy wondering what we are cutting—is it canola or wheat today? Besides a

couple of quick changes the combine operators need to do—change the rotor from second to first gear because canola needs a lower threshing speed and change the sieves settings so we don't throw any of the canola over—it is pretty easy to be switching back and forth between wheat and canola. We have to cut what is ready and that determines what type of crop we are cutting.

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

Roland Harvesting reflects on a successful summer

Tuesday, August 30
James, Brandon, and I all began classes at the University of Wyoming on Aug. 22 in Laramie. Dad had to adjust things after we left. Some new crew members, Ben, Ricky and Greg, have been helping out since our departure. They are almost finished up with Wyoming malt barley and will head back to Hemingford in the next few days to prepare for harvesting fall crops.

Last Monday, Brandon attended his very first college class, James embraced his junior year in mechanical engineering, and I began my first day of orientation for nursing school. What really separates us from the average college student is the amount of self-confidence we exhibit, the critical thinking skills we possess, the capacity we have to handle high stress, the responsibility to own up for our mistakes, the public relations abilities we hold, and the optimistic attitude we live by in all that we do. All of these irreplaceable characteristics were all experienced and learned while on harvest. Harvest has taught us an unimaginable amount of life lessons. Most importantly, we have

learned to not be afraid of the unknown and to seek new experiences with an open mind.

On our last official day of harvest I rode in the combine cab with Dad and watched the sun dip beneath the mountains in the distance as the stunning colors of dusk radiated against the barley heads in the field as I tried to soak up my final day of summer harvest. The combine hummed contentedly and the reel went round and round as Dad and I reminisced about everything we had experienced in the last few months. We discussed all the challenges we had faced—from being a small, shorthanded crew, to the power struggle between Brandon and me, to James trucking in Fort Worth, Texas, to the extreme heat in Kansas when we were loading up, to Brandon surviving the bridge accident. Looking back on all these events we laughed and smiled about most things.

Some say that life is like a book and there are always old chapters ending while new chapters are beginning. In my family, we compare life to harvest. There's always a new wheat field up ahead and you never know



Brandon, James, and I soak up the last sweetness of summer.

what to expect. Sometimes you pull into a weedy field yielding only 10 bushels per acre, yet it still takes you days to finish. The next field could be 200 miles away and yielding over 100 bushels per acre. Then the following field might be full of mud holes and you spend the next several days pulling machinery out. The important thing is to remember that we are not alone and to keep on pushing. I know that my family is always there with me in all that I do, and with all the skills I have learned from harvest I can endure almost anything and conquer nearly everything that I put



There's always a new wheat field up ahead and you never know what to expect. Don't be afraid of the unknown; simply seek new experiences and embrace them with an open mind!

my mind to.

We are so grateful that we had the opportunity to share our harvest adventures this summer. We would like to deeply thank all of the followers that have faithfully read and engaged in All Aboard Harvest the past few months. In addition, I would like

to express a sincere thank you to the wonderful sponsors who made this incredible experience possible! Roland Harvesting feels truly blessed to have been part of such an amazing summer with All Aboard Wheat Harvest.

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

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

