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## Fifth generation Villa Grove farmer keeping the tradition alive

**By Tony Hooker**  
There was never really a doubt that Case Bozdech would continue to work in the family business. That's the expectation when you're the fifth generation of farmers to work the family ground just west of Villa Grove. I caught up with Case while he was planting and we spent a few minutes talking about that legacy, along with what it's like to work for his dad and many other things.

**Have you always known that you were going to be a farmer? Was there ever a**

**time that you thought about being a doctor or a lawyer or something?**  
Nope, I've always wanted to be a farmer. I've known it since I was a little kid, riding with dad in the combine.

**I've known you since you were four, and there was never much doubt in our minds either, but I wondered if there was ever that moment when you considered something else?**  
No. Never, really.

**What's it like, being a fifth-generation farmer?**  
We're the fifth to farm it

and sixth to live here.

**Is this still your dad's operation, or are you and he and (younger brother) Gage partners?**  
Right now, I work for dad as full-time help, but Gage and I on our own farm about 440 acres.

**I see you traveling all the time, and you haul a lot of livestock all over the country, right?**  
I work a lot of purebred sales, so let's say I work a sale for Larry Martin Cattle Sales over in Clinton, and he'll sell cattle all over the country. If

I have enough room on my trailer, someone will pay me to haul them out there, and I'll usually find a back haul on the way home.

**Are you still involved in showing cattle?**  
Yeah, but on a different side of it. I used to show cattle but now I go around, and I clip and cut hair.

**Are you involved in judging or in any national associations or anything?**  
No, I didn't get involved in judging, and it's pretty hard to go and do that. By cutting and clipping, I've had some really

great opportunities to work with some good people, all across the country.

**What are some of the bigger events you've taken part in?**  
I went to Denver for the Western National Stock Show. This year, I was gone from the farm for eleven days. I went to Oklahoma City for the Cattleman's Congress, and then to Denver for the National Western Stock Show, from roughly January 5th through January 11.

**Moving forward, has there been any sort of dis-**

**cussion of what will happen when your Dad (Bill) decides to retire?**  
I think eventually Gage and I will be here full time.

**You'll be co-managers of the operation?**  
Yes, we work together really well.

**As the older brother, do you ever pull rank and make him drive the auger wagon while you run the combine? <smiles>**  
<laughing> No, it just kind of depends. We always just go

*See VG FARMER on page C6*

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