

NDSGA Scholarship Winner Destined to Farm



From a very young age, it was evident that farming would be in Levi Hofer's future.

Hofer is pursuing that seemingly inevitable path as a student at North Dakota State University (NDSU) with plans to return to the family farm after graduation.

"I always wanted to be a farmer," Hofer says. "Even when I was a kid, my twin brother and I farmed the carpet with our Tonka toys. I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Hofer's family farms near Northwood, North Dakota, growing soybeans; wheat; edible beans; and, some years, sunflowers and barley. Hofer is the fourth generation to work the family farm. After graduating from Larimore High School, he enrolled at NDSU and is majoring in agriculture economics with a crop and weed science minor. He's on track to graduate in May 2021.

"My goal has always been to come

back to the farm," Hofer says. "I have an older brother and a twin brother involved in the operation. My goal is to return and farm some more land."

Hofer is the 2020 North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) Scholarship recipient. The scholarship provides \$5,000 to a student in NDSU's College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources, and the award is designed to help a student further his/her education.

Hofer states that his training in agriculture economics along with crop and weed science will give him a well-rounded education and will equip him to operate his own farm. He also learned a lot by watching the people with whom he has lived and worked his entire life.

"I'm really learning a lot of things from my dad," Hofer says. "You have to take what you can get, adjust and just take things day by day."

Despite the current challenges in

agriculture brought on by weather conditions, markets, trade issues and a myriad other issues, Hofer remains

positive that farming is the right path for him.

"I'm very optimistic about the future. I look forward to farming every day," Hofer explains. "I love it even more as I learn more about marketing and what it takes to grow a good crop. It makes farming even more interesting."

Hofer says that soybeans are an important crop for his family, so being selected to receive the NDSGA scholarship was an honor.

"When I saw that I was selected, everyone in my family was really excited. It will help a great deal to reduce the amount of school loans I will have," Hofer explains. "I'm very excited and super thankful, too. It's really cool to be selected."

The NDSGA scholarship is available to the child or grandchild of an NDSGA member. Applicants must have completed 90 credits at the time of scholarship disbursement.

—Story and photos by Daniel Lemke



From farming the carpet as a kid to working the land as an adult, NDSGA scholarship winner Levi Hofer knew farming was his future.