



Harvest insider: Jack Hoepner

Viterra Bowmans group

Leading Hand/Loader Operator

I started with Viterra as a harvest worker in 2014, and I enjoyed the experience so returned in 2015 and 2016. For me, the best part about seasonal work was that my school holidays started at around the same time as the harvest, so I was able to keep busy and earn some good money during the break. I also really enjoyed meeting new people, having conversations with growers/carriers, working night shifts and operating machinery.

After working the 2016/17 harvest, I was lucky enough to gain a permanent position at Bowmans.

Since starting my career with Viterra in 2014, I have been given the opportunity to go through multiple different training courses and can now carry out a wide range of tasks such as operate machinery used to move grain, load trains, fumigate, weld tarps and perform many other jobs.

My role during harvest

My favourite thing about working at Bowmans is harvest time, as it gets quite busy being one of the bigger Viterra sites. I also really enjoy being part of a team and outturning grain via train/truck.

As a Leading Hand/Loader Operator, my shifts consist of working in and leading teams, and making sure harvest workers are safe and comfortable operating machines, and assisting them if required.

Last harvest I was in charge of the night shift. Night shifts involve covering the grain that has been received into bunkers during the day with large plastic tarps and ensuring the site is set up ready for grain to be received the next day.

During a day shift, my role involves helping staff and managing truck traffic to make sure they are moving around the site relatively smoothly and safely.

I enjoy chatting to farmers from around the area during harvest and helping harvest workers out when needed.

My advice to new employees

Harvest work is very enjoyable yet a great learning experience. If I could give any advice to new employees it would be to make sure you keep asking questions until you understand how to perform a task correctly and safely.