Custom grain harvesting in Chase County is featured in the July/August 2012 issue of Nebraska Life Magazine.

As research for the nine-page story entitled “Chase County Wheat Bounty — At Home with Traveling Harvesters,” Nebraska Life Magazine staff writer Matthew Spencer climbed into the combine to harvest the wheat near Wauneta, and rode along to the grain elevator with custom grain harvesters Dennis and Colleen Goings of rural Elsie. As the machines reaped the golden harvest, Spencer harvested three decades of stories from the Goingses and their experienced crew, tales of harvesting the nation’s breadbasket from Texas, through Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Tales of fighting the elements, like in 1984 when harvest was delayed by a full 30 days of rain. Tales from the prairie and Mother Nature.

“There was that big snake daring to hitch a ride with the truck she was driving in the combine convoy from Weatherford, Okla.,” the story reads. “After several hours of riding up from Central Oklahoma, Colleen was approaching the Kansas border when she noticed the reptile snaking its way up her hood. “I’m deathly afraid of snakes,” Colleen says in the story. “Suddenly it got in the cab with me.”

Read the rest of the story, with full-color photography from Jorn Olsen, as well as articles from across the entire state of Nebraska in the current issue of Nebraska Life Magazine, available now on newsstands or by subscription.

Nebraska Life Magazine publishes six issues a year and began 15 years ago. It is family-owned by Christopher Amundson and his wife, Angela. A subscription to the magazine is $21 for one year or $38 for two years. To subscribe, please call the Nebraska Life office in downtown Norfolk at 1-800-777-6159, visit the website www.NebraskaLife.com or send your order to: 206 Norfolk Ave., Norfolk, NE 68702-0819. More information about the magazine, including more photos and stories, can be found at www.NebraskaLife.com