

Big Dreams

One young farmer learns to manage his ambition and the growing pains that come with it.

STORY BY DES KELLER /// PHOTOS BY CHARLES RIEDEL

Six years ago, **Dustin Edwards** had a full-time, off-farm job as an environmental scientist. He owned 17 acres of farmland not far from where he grew up, and lives still, in Lebo, Kan. ¶ There was never any question, though, that farming full-time—and then some—was his ultimate goal. ¶ “When my friends were going to the pool in high school, I was working in the field,” says Edwards, who, at a lean 6 feet, 6 inches tall, starred for his high school basketball team and played in college as well. “And I wasn’t working on the farm that much because my dad was making me; I wanted to be there. I’d gladly work till midnight.” ¶ So perhaps this next bit of news shouldn’t be surprising.