

Farm Rescue Helps with Planting

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Hard, physical work is part of a farmer's daily job. So, what happens when a farmer is injured or sick?

"I derive a lot of joy out of serving other people. It's a perfect fit for me to serve others and to farm, I love it," said Levi Wielenga, a volunteer for Farm Rescue.

Wielenga is a volunteer for Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that plants and harvests crops free of charge for family farmers like Daryl DeGroot who have suffered a major injury.

"They put the knee in, I got an infection in it, I was on antibiotics. Then on March 10 of this year the infection came back," said Daryl DeGroot, a Hull, Iowa farmer.

This kept him off the farm and unable to meet critical deadlines.

"As a farmer you have four weeks in the spring and four weeks in the fall to get your crop in the ground. It's got to happen in that time," said Wielenga.

This is where Farm Rescue steps in, providing volunteers to help put a crop in the ground for families that are in crisis.

"It'd just be so amazing to know, if my dad, if my brother would have an injury or illness or natural disaster that something like this would be there to take the pressure off the neighbors, take the pressure off us, and to be able to help out and be there in the time of need," said Wielenga.

The help couldn't have come at a better time.

"I really can't do much. I can't even walk, carry a cup of water, anything," said DeGroot.

"It was very reassuring to me to not have to worry about that, to know that would be taken care of," said Marla DeGroot, the wife of Daryl DeGroot.

Marla tells us all of this help has been contagious.

"Were more aware now of when needs come up with somebody else our goal is to pay it forward, to be a blessing to somebody else because we have been so truly blessed by farm rescue and many other organizations and many friends," said DeGroot.