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## **Group helping Bristol farmer**

**BY RUSS KEEN**

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Two weeks after his last of three surgeries since Jan. 1, farmer Curtis Morehouse is having some of his best days since the operations.

Four volunteers from North Dakota-based Farm Rescue are at his rural Bristol farm getting equipment ready to plant about 400 acres of wheat. They also hope to plant it today or Thursday.

“Having these guys out here is really an encouragement,” Morehouse said Tuesday. “We’ve been through a lot, but the Lord has brought us through it all.”

Retired airlines pilot and farmer Gerald Krueger of Aberdeen is one of the volunteers at the farm, as is Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross, originally from Cleveland, N.D. Nonprofit Farm Rescue is beginning its fourth year of helping farmers in distress because of major illness, injury or natural disaster.

Morehouse, 66, said his surgeries involved mostly kidney and heart problems.

Farm Rescue has selected 22 projects for this spring, Gross said. After helping Morehouse, the group will assist several farmers in the southeast part of South Dakota.

The tractor and new planter being used at Morehouse’s farm are donated by RDO Equipment of Aberdeen. RDO is one of Farm Rescue’s major supporters in northeast South Dakota, Gross said. Others include South Dakota Wheat Growers, which spread fertilizer on the Morehouse farm on Tuesday morning; Dacotah Bank and Ipswich-based North Central Farmers Elevator.

Walmart’s statewide giving program in South Dakota gave Farm Rescue \$50,000 last year, Gross said.

Morehouse said his daughter, Ann Marie Hill of Webster, applied to Farm Rescue for help for him.

### **Past efforts to be highlighted on TV show**

Also, Farm Rescue’s assistance to a Eureka family last fall will be included in a show that airs Sunday on a DirecTV channel.

“Hometown Heroes” will look at a crew of volunteers that helped harvest the soybean crop of Damian and Martha Kappenman, whose farm was decimated by a tornado. The show will debut at 8 a.m. CDT Sunday on DirecTV’s The 101 Network. The program is hosted by Joan Lunden.