

Keloland

Family Farm Rescued By Non-Profit

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HULL, IA - The DeGroot family are longtime farmers and rely on the fields for income. But after some complications with a knee replacement surgery, the patriarch of the family was laid up for months unable to work the fields.

"You can't drive tractor. You can't drive anything," Daryl DeGroot said. "And he can't put any weight on it. They took all of the components of his knee out. They put spacers in, but he has no knee in," Daryl's wife Marla DeGroot said.

That's when Farm Rescue stepped in to help out.

"Farm Rescue is a non-profit that provides free planting and harvesting assistance when a family farm has had a major illness or injury or natural disaster," Farm Rescue Regional Operations Manager Faron Wahl said.

Farm Rescue is now planting the DeGroot's more than 200 acres of land.

"It truly has been a blessing because he wants to be out there and wants to be involved. How are we going to get this all done? Farm Rescue has truly been a blessing," Marla said.

Farm Rescue is run by volunteers and funded 100 percent by donations. Wahl says the change in family farming has made the need for their services even greater.

"There are fewer family farms, they're further apart geographically. There are fewer kids home on those farms. So when an illness or injury happens especially just before harvest or planting, a lot of times there aren't as many options as there used to be for people to come together and help that family," Wahl said.

And families like the DeGroots are thrilled to have the help.

"We're going to be one of the first ones to have the corn in probably today. That's probably the first really good day for planting. We'll be one of the first ones to have it in. How blessed can you be, really," Daryl said.

For more information on how to donate or apply for Farm Rescue assistance or to nominate someone you know, you can check out its [website](#).