

# N. Dakota based group helps family farms in need

Farm Rescue helps farmers hit by injury, accidents or natural disaster get crops planted and harvested.

BY AMY KORT

The nonprofit organization Farm Rescue is working free of charge to ensure family-run farms in the Midwest stay in business.

Farm Rescue, which plants and harvests crops for farm families facing setbacks due to injury, illness or natural disaster, provides assistance to farm families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and eastern Montana.

"We've assisted more than 230 farm families since inception in 2006," said Danielle Abbas, marketing communications coordinator with Farm Rescue. "We depend upon volunteers, sponsors and donors who give their time, talents and financial resources to plant or harvest their crop."



Many cases have involved a child who is injured or ill, and the parents need to be with that child for surgery or treatment, she said.

"Farm Rescue doesn't give money to farmers. The organization provides the labor and farm equipment to plant or harvest up to

1,000 acres per farm family."

Farm Rescue was founded by Bill Gross, a native North Dakotan and full-time pilot for UPS. He was in the cockpit when the idea for Farm Rescue was born. Gross and the co-pilot discussed what they wanted to do

when they each retired.

Gross said he wanted to be a "Good Samaritan" and find a way to help farmers in need. The co-pilot chuckled, and then asked Gross why he should wait until retirement.

## Hundreds of volunteers

In the first year of operation, Gross helped plant on several occasions, because there was just a handful of volunteers and assistance was limited to planting. Since then, the organization has broadened to include harvesting.

"We now have about 800 volunteers we can call upon," Abbas said. "A majority grew up on a farm and need that 'farming fix,' which is why we have so many come back to the Midwest from New York, Florida, Alaska and Arizona."

To request assistance, just contact Farm Rescue and fill out an application. About half of the applications come from neighbors or business owners who call and say they think a farm family could use help but won't ask for it.

To volunteer, go to [farmrescue.org](http://farmrescue.org) to complete an online form. If your particular skill sets are needed, Farm Rescue will contact you.

*Kort is a freelance writer in Ankeny.*

## New mobile app is designed to help farmers market crops

With more growers relying on mobile technology for their daily farming operations, Farms Technology, L.L.C., a wholly owned subsidiary of DuPont Pioneer, has upgraded its Dynamic Pricing PlatformSM (DPP) Graindesk mobile app to reflect sellers' changing needs for updated grain-market information.

The free DPP mobile app puts your preferred buyers' bids at your fingertips, enabling you to make, monitor and manage offers to sell corn, soybeans and wheat 24 hours a day.

"With the updated DPP Graindesk mobile app, a grain producer can now make offers and monitor contracts anywhere, anytime," says Kevin Heikes, manager, Farms Technology. "Having access to contract and offer information helps growers manage logistics and the flow of grain to their local merchandisers."

The DPP Graindesk mobile app also delivers updated market information with the ability to create and manage futures-only and cash offers. Through mobile messaging, buyers can communicate with sellers directly through the mobile platform. DPP Graindesk offers are monitored with every tick of the futures market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Utilizing the CME Group electronic markets, the DPP Graindesk facilitates an automatic connection between grower-approved offers and buyers' hedge orders. With patented e-Pit® services, DPP Graindesk can place a hedge order, receive confirmation of the fill, execute the cash purchase and notify both buyer and seller in seconds.

Before the DPP Graindesk and the upgraded DPP Graindesk mobile app, growers interested in selling grain contacted merchandisers to get a price or waited for a price notification via a scheduled text message.

"With the DPP Graindesk mobile app, the conversation between the grower and merchandiser is streamlined," Heikes says. "The DPP Graindesk helps growers set a target price with their preferred buyers, and conversations are enriched as discussions evolve from transactional to strategic." The DPP Graindesk mobile app is compatible with both Android™ and iPhone® devices.

You can download the free mobile app at the App Store™ or Google Play store. For more information, visit [dppgraindesk.com](http://dppgraindesk.com).



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