

Farm Rescue aids area farmers

Bill Gross launched Farm Rescue in 2005.

Farm Rescue provides planting and harvesting assistance to farm families that have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster.

Three area farmers have or will be receiving help from this program in the next few weeks.

Brett Kakela from Langdon, Lindsay Fingarson from Edinburg and Greg Hellickson from Edmore were those among the 13 cases that Farm Rescue has helped with the planting season so far this spring.

Farm Rescue gives families a chance to continue their livelihood by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant or harvest their crop, free of charge.

On an average Farm Rescue has approximately 40-45 applications for help with both planting and harvesting seasons.

Their goal is to help at least 20 farms with planting and 10 during

harvest.

"Harvesting is harder to schedule," Pam Musland, Director of Operation for Farm Rescue said. "We want to do quality work on the ground so we limit the amount of cases that we commit to."

Farmers are helped with up to 1000 acres of planting or harvesting help. On an average, Farm Rescue helps with 500 acres per case.

"We commit to a certain amount and do more if we can based on weather and time," Musland said.

Farm Rescue provides assistance to farm families in North Dakota, South Dakota, western Minnesota and eastern Montana.

Since 2006, Farm Rescue has helped 144 cases. All of which are based on funding and logistics.

Farm Rescue operations are solely funded by donations from businesses, organizations and individuals that support America's tradition of independent family farms and strong rural economies.

The Farm Rescue program does not distribute funds to farms. All donations are used to pay for the many expenses associated with planting and harvesting crops.

"We need money to do what we do in the field," Musland says.

Farm Rescue's board of directors and president are also volunteers and receive no monetary compensation.

With just two full-time staff members keeping the organization running, supporters of Farm Rescue can feel confident that their donation is directly helping families on the land.

"There is a lot of need for help and we are doing what we can," Musland said.

To apply for help from Farm Rescue, an application can be found on their webpage, www.farmrescue.org. All applications that are complete will receive priority consideration.

"Langdon has been very supportive and kind to our volunteers," Musland said.

Farm Rescue can be contacted at the following address and phone numbers:

Farm Rescue
1313 Business Loop East
P.O. Box 1100
Jamestown, ND 58402
701-252-2017 (voice)
888-726-7597 (fax)



Farm Rescue working in the area

Brett Kakela and two other farmers in Edinburg and Edmore received help from Farm Rescue with the planting season. Photo by PLC Photography.