



The tractor and seeder plant soybeans for Don Nagel.

Farm Rescue helps Don Nagel with spring planting

By Chad Schumacher

Don Nagel of Hague recently retired as the rural mail carrier for Hague and Strasburg, and he also was recently in the hospital fighting an illness and cancer.

A farmer, Nagel knew he needed some time to recover from his hospitalization, and his crop needed to be planted. That's when Farm Rescue pitched in to help.

Farm Rescue is a nonprofit organization which plants and harvests crops for farmers who are in a crisis due to a major injury, illness or natural disaster. The organization is funded by donations, grants and sponsorships. Those contributions are used to pay for the many costs of planting and harvesting a crop.

Farm Rescue was founded in 2006 by Bill Gross, who grew up in Cleveland, N.D. They help farmers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and western Minnesota. So far they have helped 131 farmers in those four states.

The organization will plant or harvest up to 1,000 acres for each farmer. They planted a quarter, 155 acres, of soybeans for Nagel.

Nagel was responsible for providing the fuel for the equipment, seed and fertilizer.

He said this year his neighbors are helping him seed sunflowers and corn.

Farmers helped by Farm Rescue are chosen through an application process that includes financial records and medical verification. The Farm Rescue board of directors review the information and decide if they will assist the farmer.

Because funding is limited, they are only able to help roughly half of the families who request assistance.

Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross came to the farm along with Dave Hertl from Chandler, Ariz., and Dave Sette from Grafton, Wis., to help with the seeding.



Everyone helped get the equipment ready for the field. Left to right are Don Nagel, Dave Hertl, Dave Sette and Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross.



Dave Sette watches to make sure everything is going good as the truck is being unloaded and the seed goes into the seeder.



The Farm Rescue sign along with their flag and the United States Flag fly from the top of their equipment as they work.