

# Farm Rescue honors families, volunteers at annual banquet

November 16, 2013 11:00 am • [By RYAN CROSSINGHAM, Farm & Ranch Guide](#)

Farm Rescue, which was launched in 2005, celebrated their record setting year of helping farm families at their annual banquet and concert at the Best Western Ramkota in Bismarck, N.D. on Nov. 1.

Farm Rescue is an organization that provides planting and harvesting assistance for families that have experienced unfortunate circumstances such as major injury, illness or natural disaster, that inhibit their ability to fulfill their farming tasks.

As a free of charge organization, Farm Rescue provides farm families across the region a chance to continue their farming operations by providing the necessary equipment and manpower, which mostly consists of volunteers from around the nation, to plant or harvest their crop.

“This year was our most successful year,” said Bill Gross, the founder of Farm Rescue. “We helped 50 farm families this year alone, our most ever, and we’ve helped more than 250 since our inception, which is no small feat.”

Farm Rescue relies on volunteers from around the nation to come and give their time to help farm families in need. Volunteers from as far away as New Mexico, South Carolina and New York were present at the banquet where they were welcomed along with the other volunteers with a standing ovation from the crowd in attendance.

“With volunteers coming from across the nation, which is sometimes a logistical nightmare, we are able to get all this done thanks to them,” said Gross.

Gross, who works as a full-time pilot for UPS Airways and is a North Dakota native, developed a passion for agriculture while growing up on his family farm in Cleveland, N.D. In an effort to assist farm families in need, Gross founded the non-profit organization that provides support in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and eastern Montana.

Farm Rescue holds a special partnership with RDO Equipment, which donates all the equipment that is used by the organization on the farms of the families that they help.

“They give us top-notch equipment, which we value very much,” said Gross before introducing Christi Offutt, the CEO of RDO Equipment.

RDO Equipment is a family-owned and operated business that operates more than 60 dealerships in nine states. They offer quality brands such as John Deere, Vermeer and Topcon.

“Everyone at RDO Equipment believes in the mission of Farm Rescue,” said Offutt. “We are proud to be the exclusive equipment provider for Farm Rescue.”

Offutt also gave credit to the number of volunteers that give their time to help the families in need with Farm Rescue.

“The machinery doesn’t do any good without the people who use it,” said Offutt, who mentioned how RDO Equipment provides training to all the volunteers on the equipment they provide.

The banquet featured a four-course dinner for those in attendance, as well as prize drawings and a silent auction to raise money for future organizational endeavors. The main prize at the banquet was an all-expense paid trip to Alaska for two which was fittingly won by the couple who had just given a testimonial before the drawing, which drew an array of applause from the crowd.

Capping the evening was a concert by Jason Brown, an up-and-coming country music artist, who performed his third concert for various Farm Rescue events.

For more information on Farm Rescue, visit [www.Farmrescue.org](http://www.Farmrescue.org) or call the Farm Rescue office in Jamestown, N.D. at 701-252-2017.