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Farm Rescue Transports Hope Through Operation Hay Lift *As spring arrives, nonprofit reflects on successes of hay hauling assistance*

HORACE, N.D., May 1, 2018 - Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that provides planting, harvesting, haying and hay hauling assistance free of charge to farm and ranch families who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster, is grateful for each supporter who made Operation Hay Lift successful in the past eight months.

The hay hauling assistance was launched in mid-July of 2017, when severe drought crippled feed supplies for ranchers in the western Dakotas and eastern Montana. Operation Hay Lift provides a means of hay transport to drought-stricken ranchers throughout the region, as well as those affected by injury or illness. Farm Rescue trucks and drivers were on the roads throughout the winter, hauling hay to ranchers in crisis.

What makes this service effort truly amazing is that all of the work associated with Operation Hay Lift has been performed by Farm Rescue volunteers, who contributed 170,000 miles behind the wheel. As of today, Operation Hay Lift is responsible for transporting more than 275 loads of hay, which is the equivalent of over 8,000 round bales.

“The outpouring of support from sponsors, volunteers and hay donors has been incredible. During this marathon of operations, I witnessed Farm Rescue rise to the occasion to help ranch families in the best way they could with the resources available to them,” said Levi Wielenga, who lined up volunteers and dispatched each load. “Many volunteers served repeatedly throughout even the coldest months to keep our trucks delivering hay where it was needed most.”

“Our gratitude goes out to those who made this possible. Each volunteer, hay donor and sponsor was instrumental in creating this reality,” said Bill Gross, Founder & President, Farm Rescue. “Looking forward, we pray for sufficient moisture to provide a bountiful harvest for each farm and ranch family during these challenging economic times.”

Farm Rescue is thankful to all of our sponsors, with a special note of gratitude to the following companies who provided additional funding and equipment specifically designated for Operation Hay Lift: Ace Towing, Anderson Trucking Services, Beyer Towing, First International Bank & Trust, Haybuster, Hendrickx Onsite Repair, Hess, J.P. Wiest, Oneok, RDO Truck Center, Scheels and Wilson Trailer.

About Farm Rescue

Farm Rescue has helped nearly 550 families since its inception in 2006. The organization’s mission is to help farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major illness, injury, or natural disaster by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant, hay or harvest their crop. Livestock feeding assistance is also available to ranchers. Farm Rescue helps farm and ranch families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Iowa. Applications are currently being accepted for planting assistance, haying assistance and livestock feeding assistance, which can be obtained at 701-252-2017 or www.farmrescue.org. Referrals are welcome.

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