



With flags flying, Farm Rescue volunteers plant the crop for the Nehlich family. (photos courtesy of North Central Farmers Elevator)

Farm Rescue assists farmers in times of need

Just like a good friend who is there for you when you need help, Farm Rescue is there to help farmers when they need help.

Farm Rescue volunteers recently worked west of Ipswich, at the Artie and Delaine Nehlich farm. Artie had been hospitalized with colon surgery, followed by further complications.

The Farm Rescue was there to do the spring planting for the Nehlichs. They seeded 600 acres of corn and 300 acres of soybeans, according to Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross.

Farm Rescue is an organization that plants and harvests crops free of charge for farm families that have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster. Their operation is funded by donations, sponsorships and grants. Several area businesses are among the 2011 sponsors. RDO Equipment provides the John Deere equipment and maintenance for their work. North Central Farmers Elevator also donates to the organization as a gold sponsor. Other sponsors who serve the local area include Lamar Signs, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Dacotah Bank, South Dakota Wheat Growers, Farm Credit Services of America and Walmart.

The Nehlichs' farm was their last stop in South Dakota. After the Farm Rescue crew finished their work late on May 10, they were heading to North Dakota and Minnesota. Gross said they had a long spring coming up, with 15 cases to complete.

In the fall, there will be more work for them. They are taking applications or referrals now for the fall season. For more information, contact them at 701-252-2017 or see their website: www.farmrescue.org. Farm Rescue is based in Jamestown, N.D.

Gross thanks his sponsors and of course the volunteers that do the work. The volunteers, like Gross, take time off from their jobs to help people in need. Their volunteers this spring included Jerry Krueger of Aberdeen, Dave Sette of Grafton, Wis., and Dave Hertel of Chandler, Ariz. Gross, a North Dakota native, is a full-time pilot based in the Seattle area.



Delaine and Art Nehlich