

Farm Rescue harvests over 400 acres of Dale Baasch's crop

November 4, 2009 by [Ransom County Gazette](#)

Farm Rescue harvested over 400 acres of soybeans for Dale and Lisa Baasch, rural Lisbon, over the past two weeks despite the rain delays.

Dale Baasch was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a type of bone marrow cancer and has been unable to harvest his crops. Dale and Lisa are at their other home in South Dakota.

“Under the circumstances, I really appreciate Farm Rescue,” said Baasch in a telephone interview. “They have good people working for them. They are doing a good job.”

Baasch is currently experiencing a setback, so he also appreciates all of the thoughts and prayers of the community that he hears about.

In the meantime, people like Clarence Kuss, Jamestown, and Charlie Hardie, Fargo, and even Jack Limke, a former North Dakotan from Kentucky, along with Dale's sons and grandsons are harvesting crops for Dale and Lisa.

Farm Rescue plants and harvests crops for farm families who are dealing with an unexpected injury, illness or natural disaster. The organization was founded by Bill Gross, a native North Dakota farm boy and pilot for UPS Airlines, in 2005 and started operations in 2006.

As a nonprofit organization, Farm Rescue merely provides the equipment and manpower (volunteer labor) to plant and harvest crops for farm families that are in crisis. Up to 1,000 acres are planted or harvested for each family. The assisted family is responsible for providing crop inputs, such as seed, fertilizer and fuel.

RDO Equipment Company provides all the John Deere planting and harvesting equipment to Farm Rescue, free of charge. Other local sponsors include: Bremer, Farm Credit Services, CornerStone Bank and Walock-Johnson Insurance, Inc.

Farm Rescue is funded solely through donations from individuals, businesses and foundations. Currently, the organization is able to help about half the number of families that request assistance.

Volunteers come from all over the country to help where they are needed. Many of them are retired farmers or grew up on a farm. So far this year, Farm Rescue has had volunteers travel from as far away as Kansas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Alaska.

Since starting operations, Farm Rescue has assisted 98 farm families in four states – North Dakota, South Dakota, eastern Montana and western Minnesota. These families were dealing

with everything from cancer treatment and spinal cord injuries to severed limbs and tornado destruction.

(Information on Farm Rescue for this story was provided by Pam Musland, director of operations, Farm Rescue, Jamestown.)

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