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## Farm Rescue lends a hand to Clear Lake farmer

- From Krista Atyeo-Gortmaker -

Clear Lake farmer Chuck Atyeo felt a load lifted from his shoulders after Farm Rescue confirmed a commitment to helping him get a crop in the ground this spring.

Atyeo experienced a four-bypass heart surgery and lung resection on Good Friday and was released from the hospital the following Wednesday looking to make a speedy recovery.



Courtesy photo illustration by Krista Atyeo-Gortmaker

Pam & Chuck Atyeo, in the upper right inset, were helped out by Farm Rescue on Friday.

On April 27, Chuck was airlifted back to Sanford Hospital for blood clots, a disorder caused when his body started creating antibodies against the blood thinner, Heparin. The Atyeo family welcomed Chuck back home to the farm for the second time this spring on May 6.

On May 8, Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization based out of North Dakota, which provides planting and harvesting assistance to farm families that have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster, arrived at the Atyeo farm, where Chuck and his son, Nathan, farm together.

Farm Rescue's mission is to help family farmers bridge crises so they have an opportunity to continue viable operations.

After a blessing of the seeds, fields and weather by the Rev. Laura Overbo, Chuck's daughter, the air seeder began the duties of planting nearly 300 acres of Atyeo land to soybeans.

The Atyeo family and friends provided meals for the crew of five throughout Friday and Saturday and the Farm Rescue group moved on to Bristol and then followed a path northeast into Minnesota.

The non-profit organization runs on sponsorships and donations with the duties being done by volunteers working from field to field in small crews. Depending upon the weather, the two crews will assist approximately 22 farm families with planting this spring season.

South Dakota sponsors of Farm Rescue include: RDO Equipment Co.; Walmart; Dacotah Bank; South Dakota Wheat Growers; First Premiere Bank; North Central Farmers Elevator; Farm Credit Services of America; and Lamar.

For more information about the organization or to give a donation, go to the website: [www.farmrescue.org](http://www.farmrescue.org).