



Farm Rescue Aids Local Man

By Kathy Swenson, Henderson Independent

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“We are dirty and dusty,” laughed Jerry Doyle as he climbed down from his combine with his new friend, Dale Lamphere, a volunteer with Farm Rescue. It is good to see Jerry laugh. While the harvest season can be a stressful time for a farmer, couple that with someone who has suffered a significant loss and the task at hand may seem impossible. Many people shy away from the topic, yet depression is a real illness with real symptoms. Struggling since the loss of his wife, Darlene, in March of 2014, Jerry found himself emotionally drained as he faced this year’s bountiful harvest season. “I was overwhelmed because I just could not figure out how I was going to do this by myself ... to get everything out,” said Jerry. “I’ve been a nervous wreck this year and I don’t know why it fell apart. I tried to hold it together but the nerves got on me this year. I don’t know why ... I just can’t keep it together this year. “A friend recognized the stress Jerry was going through and mentioned Farm Rescue, a non-profit organization that provides planting and harvesting assistance, free of charge, for farmers like Jerry, who have suffered a major illness, injury or natural disaster. “I didn’t think much of it at the time,” said Jerry. “But he got talking to a friend and all of a sudden Farm Rescue got in contact with us. You had to meet a certain criteria to qualify ... it ended up we met it and we are taking advantage of this program. “Farm Rescue sent Dale with a semi for hauling, to work alongside Jerry and bring the crops in. “I really, really appreciate the help,” expressed Jerry. He’s been here all

week. "Planting extra acres this year, crops turned out better than Doyle expected, but he was struggling with some of his equipment. "My trucks are just not working the way they are supposed to be to haul it to town. This is the way to do it quick," said Jerry, pointing to the semi. It has been working really well." Jerry planted 185 acres of corn and about 140 acres of soybeans, along with some hay ground. "Roughly between 350 and 400 acres. "Sons Taylor and Kris, lend a hand when they are able. Kris is still in high school and Taylor, who graduated last year, has another job. "They do what they can do to help," said Jerry. We are just about a day or two from being done," Jerry said last Thursday. "And then we have some field work left. You are never done until you are done, but we are getting close. I am glad to have this much done already." Neighbors were readying to pitch in and help Jerry through the harvest. "We actually had the Tesch boys lined up, Jeremy and Chris. They were going to come and help, but they still have their own crops to finish," said Jerry. "They were going to be helping by the weekend, but I think we are going to be pretty much caught up by then. "Flying in from upstate New York, Dale is his fifth year of volunteering for Farm Rescue. "Back home I was a dairy farmer. But with the job I have now, I can accumulate and take the time off." As a highway maintenance worker, Dale needs to be back at work by Nov. 1 for the snow and ice season. Not only is Dale a volunteer, he pays for his own travel expenses. "I've been out here (Midwest) for two weeks and this is the third job I have been on," said Dale, who worked farms at Garrison and Rolla in North Dakota before bringing the semi to Henderson to haul Jerry's crops to Le Sueur and Winthrop. "I like doing it ... just to help, so they can get their crops in and be able to keep going," said Dale. To find out more about Farm Rescue, the services they provide and how you can help, visit farmrescue.org.