
Schmidt's 'Field of Dreams' benefits Farm Rescue

Joe Schmidt, a farmer and musician from Medina, is dedicating all proceeds from the sale of a special recorded release of his "My Field of Dreams" song and video to Farm Rescue. Schmidt, a Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member, cites his inspiration by the widespread positive impact of Farm Rescue, and by its commitment to helping farm and ranch families experiencing unexpected crises.

Farm Rescue was founded in 2006 and since then has helped nearly 350 farm and ranch families in crisis. The nonprofit organization's mission is to help farmers who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant, hay or harvest their crop. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2016 planting season, and are available by calling 701-252-2017, or going to farmrescue.org.

"We are pleased to release the 'My Field of Dreams' song and music video that features Joe Schmidt's gift of music and voice," says Bill Gross, founder and president, Farm Rescue. "Many people will be positively impacted by the lyrics of this wonderful song, which speak of the American family farming traditions that are at the heart of the Farm Rescue mission."

Individuals may visit farmrescue.org/dreams to download the song, and watch the music video. Gross encourages purchasers/listeners to share the video and this website URL to others through social media.

"It's been an honor to meet the founder and many of the volunteers at Farm Rescue," Schmidt says. "I'm proud to be helping America's farm families and rural communities."

Schmidt has tapped abiding rural North Dakota roots, and converted a chance meeting into a vocal



Joe Schmidt's "My Field of Dreams" single is available on CD, or by download from farmrescue.org/dreams.

performance career getting Nashville support and nationwide attention. Schmidt was raised in a Medina-area farm family that emphasized singing. A few years ago, Schmidt and his wife, Sherry, were awaiting the start of Alabama's performance at WE Fest, an area music festival. Joe happened to board the same elevator as Joe Cook, an Alabama founding member. A conversation ensued, and a friendship developed and widened.

Cook, and music industry associates, were impressed with Schmidt's sincere devotion to family farming values, and his vocal sound. Soon, Schmidt was in Nashville recording songs. He developed a signature single song, entitled "Jesus Loves Me." To accompany the recording, Schmidt had a video produced. Filmed on North Dakota locations, in the Jamestown vicinity, Schmidt released the video last year. By mid-year, it had received nearly 80,000 views.

Last month, Schmidt received the Favorite Christian Band/Group award in the North Dakota Music Awards ceremony, held in Bismarck. Learn more about his music and life at www.joeschmidtmusic.net. ■