

Farm Rescue aids Maddock resident

BY SUE KRAFT

Benson County Farmers Press

Maddock resident Greg Maddock said he is humbled by the amount of help he has received since seriously injuring his leg earlier this year -- and he says if it weren't for Farm Rescue, he may have had to sell his cattle.

Maddock slipped on the ice by his shop on March 2 and severed the quadriceps tendons, which work with the muscles in the front of the thigh to straighten the leg.

"My knee cap was on the side of my leg," Maddock said. "The doctor said I would have been better off breaking my leg -- or anything but this."

Maddock required surgery and is currently wearing a leg brace until it heals. He said the doctor told him it would be six to 12 months until he was back to 100 percent.

As a busy guy, Maddock admits that having limited mobility can be frustrating.

"It's been hard," he said. "In March it hit the 70s for a few days and I couldn't do anything. I couldn't drive. I thought, 'Are you kidding me?'"

In addition to farming, Maddock also owns Maddock Sales and Rentals and drives bus for the Minnewaukan school. His wife, Marla, is a paraprofessional there.

He said the delayed spring was a blessing for his family.

"Thank God we had a little more winter and it pushed things back," he said, "it really helped me out."

Maddock said since his fall he has received support from everyone around him.

"I thank God for my family and my nephews who did my chores for the last two months," he said.

Maddock said his wife, brothers, nephews, sons-in-law and friends were all on hand to help when needed.

"It's very humbling," he said. "The neighbors stop by and say, 'Let



Top: The sign mounted on the side of the Farm Rescue tractor. Above: Farm Rescue volunteer Mike Melaas (left) and Maddock resident Greg Maddock stand near the Farm Rescue equipment.

Volunteers from all over the country lend a hand to the farmers in need.

Farm Rescue spokesperson Carol Wielenga said some volunteers are retired farmers and others are younger guys who use their vacation time to help others.

"It's a lot of good-hearted people," she said.

At Maddock's farm, it was Mike Melaas who was out in the tractor bright and early on Friday, May 22, to plant soybeans.

he misses working in the field.

"I missed being out there," he said, "and this is a good way to give back and give the farmers a hand."

Once the planting was completed in Maddock, Melaas planned to haul the equipment to Leeds to help another farmer.

He said Farm Rescue supplies the equipment and manpower and the farmer must provide the seed, fertilizer, fuel, etc.

For farmers like Greg Maddock, their assistance is invaluable.



Farm Rescue volunteer Mike Melaas is shown kicking up some dust as he plants soybeans east of Maddock on Friday, May 22. Farm Rescue provided the equipment and manpower to plant wheat and soybeans for Greg Maddock, who injured his leg earlier this year.

us know if we can do anything.'"

Maddock said he feels blessed to live in a such a tight-knit, rural community.

"Whenever you need something in this town, everyone steps up, it's amazing," he said.

Maddock said they own 120 beef cows and 60 bison cows and had talked about selling them until Farm Rescue came along.

"My wife got out of Mass one day and Gary Wald, the ag teacher, suggested we apply to Farm Rescue -- or I probably wouldn't have thought of it," he said.

Farm Rescue is a nonprofit organization that will help with planting, harvesting and haying, free of charge, to family farmers who have suffered an injury, illness or natural disaster.

Another Farm Rescue volunteer had been to Maddock's farm in April to seed his wheat, but it was still too cold for the soybeans.

Melaas lives in Minot and is employed at Bourgault Industries. He uses his vacation time to volunteer for Farm Rescue.

"This is my third year," he said. "I do one week in the spring and one week in the fall."

Melaas is originally from Benson County, graduating from Minnewaukan High School in 1996. He is the son of Kathy Melaas and the late Randy Melaas.

"I grew up in this area," he said, standing in Maddock's field, "about seven or eight miles from here, as the crow flies."

He said his family sold the farm around the time he graduated and

"I hate to ask for help, I have a lot of pride, but when people come to you it makes it easier," he said.

YouTube interview

Greg and Marla Maddock were interviewed by Farm Rescue and the video is posted on YouTube.

In the clip, the couple talks about the injury, recuperation time and praise for the Farm Rescue organization.

"When I got the call that morning... I pretty much broke down in tears," Greg said in the interview. "It was such a relief to have that weight lifted off my shoulders."

He talks about the difficulty he had asking for help -- and why he would encourage other farmers in the same situation to do the same thing.

The complete video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/zRkVToVJqeE>.