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Contacts: Bill Gross, Farm Rescue
Founder & President
billgross@farmrescue.org
(701) 252-2017

Dan Erdmann, Farm Rescue
Marketing Program Manager
dan@farmrescue.org
(701) 412-6926

Farm Rescue Offers Support to North Dakota Wildfire Victims *Nonprofit activates 'Operation Hay Lift' to provide relief to impacted ranchers*

HORACE, N.D., October 14, 2024 - Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that provides free planting, haying, harvesting, commodity hauling, and livestock feeding assistance to farm families who have experienced a major illness, injury, or natural disaster, is gathering support for families impacted by recent wildfires.

Farm Rescue is again activating "Operation Hay Lift" to haul much-needed livestock feed and supplies to ranchers affected by these natural disasters. Early October wildfires, fueled by strong winds and dry conditions, burned tens of thousands of acres across western North Dakota. Two men have died in relation to the fires, as well as numerous livestock. The blazes also claimed several homes, outbuildings, equipment, and fencing.

To support this relief effort, Farm Rescue is requesting hay donations in close proximity to these impacted areas, which will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Affected ranchers are asked to submit an application for Hay Hauling Assistance at farmrescue.org/apply.

The nonprofit has already sourced approximately 2,000 round bales of hay and straw from donors throughout the region, but additional feed supplies will be needed. Those interested in donating hay can email info@farmrescue.org or call 701-252-2017.

Farm Rescue is also asking for monetary donations to help fund this disaster response campaign. These contributions will support the mobilization of trucks and volunteer drivers, as they transport hay and supplies from multiple donation sites to impacted farms. Visit farmrescue.org/donate to make a contribution.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by these devastating wildfires," said Bill Gross, Founder & President, Farm Rescue. "For nearly 20 years, Farm Rescue has been committed to supporting families and communities when help is needed most. We're calling on our amazing volunteers, donors, and business partners to join us in this latest relief effort."

As damage assessments continue and additional needs are determined, Gross also expects to see an increased demand for Farm Rescue's core services heading into 2025, including planting, haying, and harvest support.

CDL drivers interested in supporting Operation Hay Lift are asked to complete a volunteer form at farmrescue.org/volunteer.

About Farm Rescue

Farm Rescue was founded in 2005 and has helped more than 1,100 families since its inception. The organization's mission is to help farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major illness, injury, or natural disaster by providing the necessary equipment and volunteer labor to perform time-sensitive services. Applications for assistance are currently being accepted and can be obtained at farmrescue.org or by calling 701-252-2017.

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