

The Grain Mill



APRIL 2011

FARM RESCUE WILL ASSIST LOCAL FARMER



The Zorc's left to right: Joe, Kaylee, Preston, Kathy and Duke.

Farm Rescue provides planting and harvesting assistance to farm families that have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster. Their mission is to help family farmers bridge crisis so they have an opportunity to continue viable operations.

One of the biggest financial drains on a family is an unexpected medical injury or illness and, of course, a natural

disaster. It is even more pronounced on a farm where a family's livelihood depends on the ability to plant or harvest a crop.

Farm Rescue gives families a chance to continue their livelihood by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant or harvest their crop, free of charge. It is operated entirely by volunteers and is funded by donations from

individuals and sponsors who support the tradition of family farming. Farm Rescue does not distribute funds to farmers. Donations are used to pay for the expenses associated with planting and harvesting crops. Labor for operating the equipment is provided by volunteers. Applications are accepted from farmers within fifty miles of any North Dakota border (excluding Canada). CHS/SWG is proud to be a major sponsor of this GREAT organization and has been since its inception.

On March 4, 2011, Joe Zorc, from Lemmon, South Dakota, was chasing one of his heifers that was having trouble calving. His full attention on the heifer and not where he was stepping, Joe tripped, fell and suffered multiple fractures to his leg. Over a month went by and since the fractures were so severe, Joe was still not able to use his leg or even step down on his foot. Farm Rescue

stepped in to help. They will plant his crop, weather permitting, sometime during the last week in April. "This is a blessing for the Zorcs" says Kathy Zorc, Joe's wife. "Our son, Preston and our daughter, Kaylee have been coming home on weekends to help with calving." "They have been just wonderful." But with having to plant the crop, Joe and I were both so worried about getting it done, especially now that it is getting so late with the weather not cooperating. Thank God for Farm Rescue!"

Farm Rescue is always looking for sponsors. For more information on how to donate, volunteer or apply for assistance, visit the Farm Rescue website at www.farmrescue.org.

Vi Obbagy
Communications Director



PRODUCER BOARD UPDATE

It is that time of the year when things should start turning green and the temperature should be rising. As I am writing, the ground again is turning white to let us know that winter has not fully left our area of the state. Hopefully, by print time, the weather will decide that it is time for spring to arrive.

The SWG Producer Board has been very busy the last few months with strategic planning, merger work and asset purchase. SWG did purchase the assets of the Hettinger Cooperative Equity Exchange. We attended their informational meeting to answer any questions the patrons had about the purchase and explained our thoughts on how it would operate. We also attended the annual meeting at which time they held the vote to sell the assets to SWG. The vote was 100% in the affirmative to sell the assets to SWG. We would like to welcome them into the SWG patron base

and hope we meet their expectations on the service of the facility. I would also like to welcome the employee base for Hettinger into the SWG group. They will be an added asset to the organization. (WELCOME ABOARD).

We have also been working very closely with the New Salem Elevator board on a merger with SWG and are looking at the construction of a shuttle receiving facility in that area. The discussions have been going very well and decisions will be made at the end of this month. This merger can add value to both the organizations and bring value back to the patrons.

The strategic planning session went very well. A lot of long range thinking took place as we looked at the future of SWG. The final "Strategic Plan" brochure should be completed soon and available at your local stations for you to pick up and review the directions of this

company.

The Board has been involved with two new building projects, a blend tower at Lemmon and also the fertilizer plant expansion at Boyle. The Lemmon tower should be about completed and ready for spring blending of fertilizer product to go to the country. This can greatly help to enhance efficiencies in this department for Lemmon. The Boyle fertilizer expansion project is beginning and will increase the storage tonnage by 12,000 tons and also increase unload capacity from 150 ton per hour to 1200 ton per hour. There will also be another load out tower for straight product added for the load out side of the plant. This will greatly enhance the scheduling of fertilizer trains coming in to unload and cause as much disruption on grain load out from the elevator.

Spring will happen at some time, as it always does, but with the delays it will



Harlan Klein

create increased stress on the system and on the producers trying to get the crop in the ground in a timely manner. I encourage everyone to keep communicating with your supply people as to your expectations and needs so as they can schedule and fulfill those needs to help make spring flow easier.

Have a safe spring. IT WILL COME!

Harlan Klein, President
SWG Producer Board