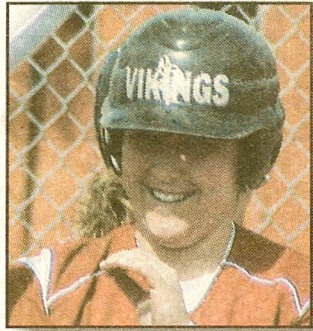


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Help from ground up



Photos by Jean Schlegel / Times-Record

Jarret Emery, from left, Jim Huseeth of RDO Equipment, Bruce Emery, Bill Gross of Farm Rescue and volunteer Joel Kaczynski discuss the running tractor behind them as two men operate it on the Emery farm near Luverne on Wednesday. Farm Rescue has been helping with planting on the farm.

Farm Rescue comes to aid of Luverne farm family after crises

By Jean Schlegel
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Luverne

Bruce Emery and his son Jarret watched as volunteers from Farm Rescue seeded soybeans on their farm near here on Wednesday.

They would have loved to have been doing it themselves, but they were sidelined by some family tragedies. That's what Farm Rescue is for – to help farmers in crisis.



Tamara
Emery

"They're a great bunch of guys," Bruce Emery says.

Emery says because of the time frame, it was impossible for he and Jarret to get everything done.

His wife, Tamara, died in a farm accident on Nov. 3. She rolled the family's ATV

four-wheeler near the machine shed in their yard. She was 52.

"She was coming to get me. I was unloading trucks that morning," Emery says. "I watched it happen."

He says later it was discovered through tests that his wife had tumors on her brain and lungs. Emery says they will never know for sure if the accident was the result of the tumors.

She wasn't driving that fast, and she had driven the four-wheeler for a long time. The four-wheeler was checked and there was nothing faulty with it.

"She knew what she was doing," he says.

Her death has left a huge void in her family member's lives.

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Bruce and Tamara's daughter, Shana, was scheduled to be deployed to Afghani-

stan with the National Guard. After her mother's accident, she was excused from deployment.

She was enrolled in the spring semester at Valley City State University. Everything was going well until Bruce suffered an accident.

"We were getting ready to go to church on Feb. 21 and had the car running," Bruce says. "I was putting something into the trunk and I slipped on the ice."

Jarret, 17, rushed him to Mercy Hospital in Valley City, where X-rays were taken. There was nothing broken, but he did tear a tendon off his knee cap, which was painful for a while, he says. Tests were taken and he had surgery on March 10. He says

doctors put a brace on his leg and he was given pills.

"It's just been a slow recovery," Emery says. He has been unable to do his farm work.

Jarret has been doing the cooking and cleaning and helping with the calving, which started in the first part of March. Neighbors also pitched in and helped when Jarret was in school. He is a junior at Valley City High.

"One of my neighbors called and encouraged me to apply at Farm Rescue," Emery says. He did.

Farm Rescue brought out equipment and volunteers two weeks ago and planted

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FARMERS:

Planting finished on Wednesday

FROM 1

340 acres of wheat. Then the weather became rainy and they couldn't do a whole lot, though they managed to plant about 100 acres of soybeans on Sunday. They left the equipment at the Emery farm and came back Wednesday and finished the soybean planting.

RDO Equipment of Fargo sent its John Deere farm equipment to do the job at the Emery farm. They also sent four volunteers. One of the trucks used on the job was sponsored by Chevrolet dealers out of Fargo.

Valley City sponsors were Dakota Plains Cooperative, Bank Forward, Dacotah Bank, Alliance Pipeline, Peavey, Otter Tail Power Co. and NoDak Mutual Insurance. Gross says without these volunteers and sponsors, the job couldn't get done.

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Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross started helping farm families in North Dakota in 2006 with a handful of volunteers. He says he saw a need to help farmers in times of crisis.

"I saw a need for helping farm families — just people in need. There are fewer farms and fewer children" compared to the past, Gross says. "It's harder to help farm families in crisis." Neighbors can only help so much, he says.

"I saw a need for helping farm families. ... It's harder to help farm families in crisis."

— **Bill Gross**
Farm Rescue founder

Gross says he was raised on a farm near Cleveland, N.D., and they never experienced any serious personal injuries in their family, but he really saw the need for Farm Rescue later in life.

"We do not give money to farmers, we just help them," Gross says. "We help them plant or harvest if they have a major illness or injury, or suffer from a natural disaster."

On Wednesday, the Emery family was Farm Rescue's 110th case. The nonprofit helps families in North Dakota, South Dakota, western Minnesota and eastern Montana.

Gross says the organization has

Montana.

Gross says the organization has 150 sponsors and hundreds of volunteers. He says they couldn't do it without the sponsors, volunteers and individual donors. These volunteers come from all over the U.S.

"We are lucky to have volunteers who help accomplish our mission," Gross says.

"We do planting and harvesting, and this is principally a volunteer-run organization," he says.

Farm Rescue has helped in 20 cases in North Dakota this year. "Farming is a dangerous occupation," he says.

Farmers may apply by calling (701) 252-2117. Farm Rescue's Web site is farmrescue.org.
