

# Opinion

"Seeking to find and publish the truth, that the people of a great state might have a light by which to guide their destiny."

— Stella Mann,  
Tribune publisher, 1939

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## TRIBUNE EDITORIAL

# Farm Rescue helps nearly 300 families

Farm Rescue is on the verge of reaching another milestone — the organization is set to help its 300th farm family by the end of this year.

Founded in 2006, it took Farm Rescue three years to reach its 100th farm family in 2009 and three more years to reach its 200th farm family in 2012. The organization has taken only two more years to reach its 300th farm family in 2014.

Farm Rescue, which assists families who have experienced major illness, injury or natural disaster, is able to help approximately 50 families each year. The non-

profit, which accepts applications from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and eastern Montana, is hoping to help even more.

Founder Bill Gross told the Associated Press in August, "We need to build more support for the organization financially to expand beyond that level. We are moving in that direction. Then, if we expand geographically in a few years, that number might grow."

Farmers are a notoriously tough and hardy lot. Many would not be comfortable accepting a handout, even when suffering injuries or

### We salute those lending a hand to our state's farmers

medical diagnoses that take them out of the fields. Instead, volunteers come in and help farm families by planting, combining and assisting where needed.

Among the families Farm Rescue has helped, the situations could have been devastating and resulted in families losing farms.

A farmer in Washburn had a

cyst removed from his back and couldn't work. He worked through the pain and got the crop in this past spring, but Farm Rescue was there recently to help him combine.

Another farmer in Braddock was diagnosed with cancer last year and received the assistance of Farm Rescue volunteers who helped plant his fields while he was undergoing chemotherapy.

The 200th farmer assisted by Farm Rescue broke his neck in a fall on his southeastern North Dakota farm. Now mostly recovered, that farmer is still farming.

The recipients of Farm Rescue aren't the only ones who benefit. Besides being tough and hardy, many farmers never fully retire from work.

Many of the volunteers, including a dedicated group of five who have helped on about 100 farms, are retired farmers themselves. They get a chance to get back in the tractor or combine and help those in need.

We commend Farm Rescue and the volunteers, donors and business sponsors who have helped nearly 300 farm families in the Upper Midwest.