

M Kulm Messenger

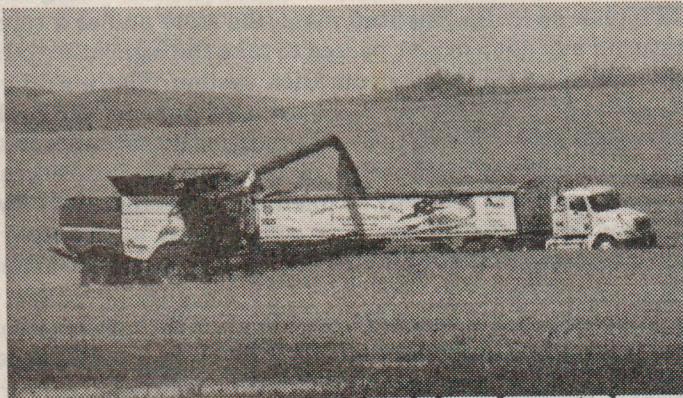
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Farm Rescue comes to Logan County



Farm Rescue volunteers worked hard, long hours to harvest wheat for the Larry Knecht Farm. Submitted Photo

by Ann Knecht

Farm Rescue is an organization helping family farmers in crisis by providing equipment and manpower free of charge. Volunteers assist to provide planting, haying and harvesting assistance for farmers who have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster.

Bill Gross, founder of Farm Rescue and formerly of Cleveland, ND, followed his heart and answered a concern of

farmer's, 'what would happen to the farm should anything interfere with the operation'. In 2005 the organization with the help of volunteers was created to help farm families in rural communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and eastern Montana. By the end of 2014 over 300 farm families will have been served by Farm Rescue and sponsors.

When the 'Farmer' at the Knecht Farm was injured by a cow, the stress of wheat harvest was unsure. Thankfully, the Burkle's (Jon, Corey and Mike) completed the haying and came to assist Norman Kleingartner with the cows. What to do next?

After reading several signs, ads and stories about the success of Farm Rescue, it was time to call and request information about the Farm Rescue program. Fortunately, we were blessed to be accepted for assistance and the volunteers came from Georgia, Oregon, Iowa and South Dakota.

Farmers are not the only American ideal of honest hard working people. Volunteers at the Knecht Farm came from all walks of life - a minister, a retired pilot and university instructor, and a farmer/rancher - each with some farming knowledge and experience from other occupations to create a safe working condition helping the 'Farmer'. Volunteers must complete a form of information and skills so that Farm Rescue can match your particular skills to the services need in or out of the field.

Keith Barkema from Iowa lends his expertise of semi-truck repair and farming/ranching efforts to the Farm Rescue program.

Jack Rutledge from Georgia brings many skills to the field to make operations run smoother. As an experienced instructor training firefighters and developing pilot programs he pays attention to details and enjoys developing new training procedures.

Andy Wittenburg is inspirational when tending his flock as a pastor and is an enthusiastic volunteer that can haul, operate or fix a combine. Coming from a farming background, Farm Rescue offers him an opportunity to enjoy farming and helping people.

Many others including Tom Wallace, a new volunteer from Wolverton, MN; Carol Wielenga - Farm Rescue Program Coordinator; and Faron Wahl, Farm Rescue Regional Operations Manager from Sioux Falls, SD are among countless numbers who support the