

Farm Rescue Helps Farmer Battling Cancer

by Hibah Samad, Reporter
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A farmer in Fergus Falls fights for his life against bone marrow cancer, but the family is given a bit of hope as Farm Rescue volunteers come together to harvest his corn.

The Dubbels family marks the 300th farm they are helping.

"Before we get started in the morning we take a look at the machine," says Levi.

To be a farmer takes a certain type of strength and patience.

Seeing the fruits of your labor is what many farmers look forward to.

"It's in every farmer, somehow can't get it out of them," says Paul Dubbels.

This corn harvest though, is different than usual for Paul Dubbels.

"He did the maintenance and ran the semi, so he was way better backing up semi's then I could be...things like that you really notice he's not there," says Dubbels.

Since the 70's Paul has been farming with his brother, John, but now there have been some bumps along the way.

"He has a condition that leads to leukemia. He has a stem cell transplant in October," says Dubbels.

John Dubbels waits miles away at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester recovering, but on his farm in Fergus Falls.

Farm Rescue is making sure his harvest is getting done.

"Farm rescue has been a blessing for us," says John Dubbels.

"I recognize the impact it has on a farm family when you realize an illness or injury before planting or harvest. The pressure and stress out on is tremendous," says Faron Wahl.

With 250 acres of corn to harvest, Farm Rescue volunteers are braving the cold weather to make sure the Dubbels farm makes it to the finish line.

"I can't put it into words. It just feels good and I'm glad to do it," says volunteer Dwayne Diers.

As work picks up on the Dubbels land, Paul is looking forward.

John Dubbels is expected to stay at the hospital for 100 days before coming back home.

Farm rescue started in 2006, and helps families in the Dakotas, Montana and Minnesota.