

# Resources for Farmers in Crisis

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College of Agricultural,  
Consumer &  
Environmental Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Extension



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and Biological Engineering



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Illinois AgrAbility



**Terry Johnston**  
**Farm Rescue**

# Objectives

**Describe resources and services available for farmers and farmworker in crisis.**



# Mental Health and Crisis Resources



# Stress

## Farmers

- **Fluctuating commodity prices**
- **Time pressures**
- **Environmental conditions**
- **Economics**
- **Multi-generational farming**
- **Natural disasters**
- **Injury and illness**

## Farm labor & Farmworkers

- **Low wage**
- **Substandard housing**
- **Limited access to food**
- **Limited transportation**
- **Barriers to accessing health care**
- **Social isolation**
- **Injury and illness**

**Professional behavioral  
health services**



**Training  
programs**

**Support  
groups**



**Telephone  
helplines  
1-800-447-1985**



**Clearinghouse website and webinars:  
[www.farmstress.org](http://www.farmstress.org)**



**North Central  
Farm and Ranch  
Stress Assistance Center**



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# Hotlines and Helplines

## Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

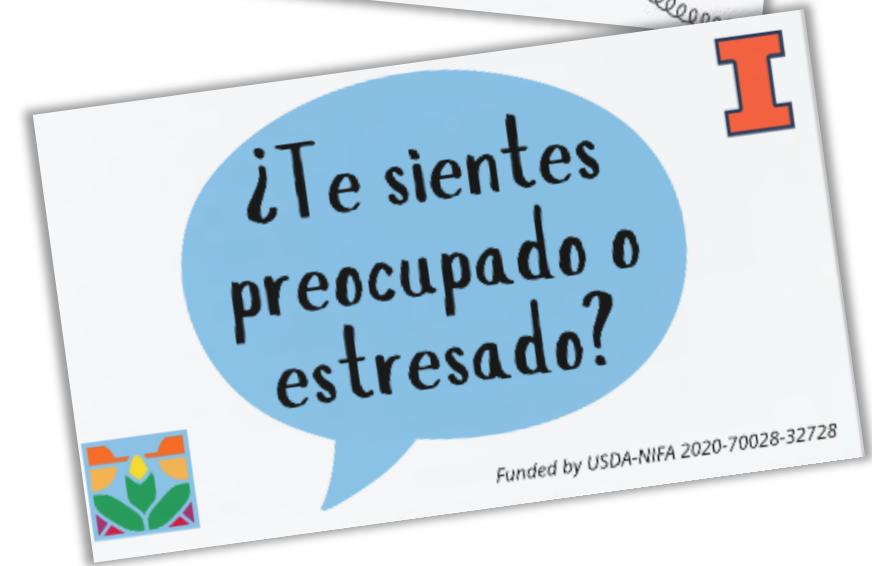
- Call, text, chat options
- Available in English and Spanish

## Concern Line: 1-800-447-1985

- Call, text, email options
- Available in English and Spanish
- Legal, financial, stress, crisis/disaster resources

## Farm Aid Farmer Hotline: 1-800-327-6243

- Call, text, email options
- Available in English and Spanish
- M-F, 9 am – 9 pm EST



# Professional Behavioral Health Services

- Free or low-cost professional behavioral health services
- 3-5 sessions
- Available to farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and family members



**North Central  
Farm and Ranch  
Stress Assistance Center**

# Illinois Ag Mental Health Voucher Program

[extension.illinois.edu/health/vouchers-ag-producers](https://extension.illinois.edu/health/vouchers-ag-producers)

Provides 3 vouchers for professional behavioral health services with partnering provider

Available in English and Spanish

106 providers in 38 counties

Services available in-person, online, over the phone

Partnership with



## Voucher distribution



Farmer requests a set of vouchers



UIUC sends vouchers and provider directory



Vouchers redeemed with a provider



UIUC reimburses providers





# Illinois AgrAbility

Helping farmers maintain  
their independence

Presenter: Haley Jones | Illinois AgrAbility Coordinator



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# Mission

The mission of AgrAbility is to enhance the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, so that they, their families, and their communities continue to succeed in rural America.

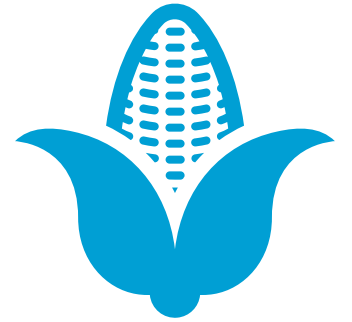





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# What is AgrAbility?



-  Program for farmers, veterans, and farmworkers who have experienced an injury or disability
-  AgrAbility offers education and assistance to eliminate barriers, accommodate limitations, and help you continue farming!
-  AgrAbility involves Extension educators, disability experts, rural professionals, and volunteers who work in partnership to offer a variety of services at no cost to clients.



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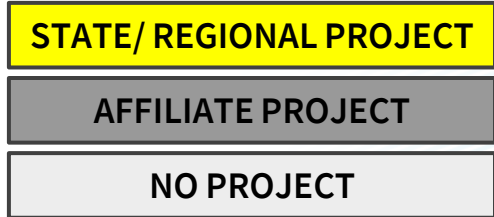
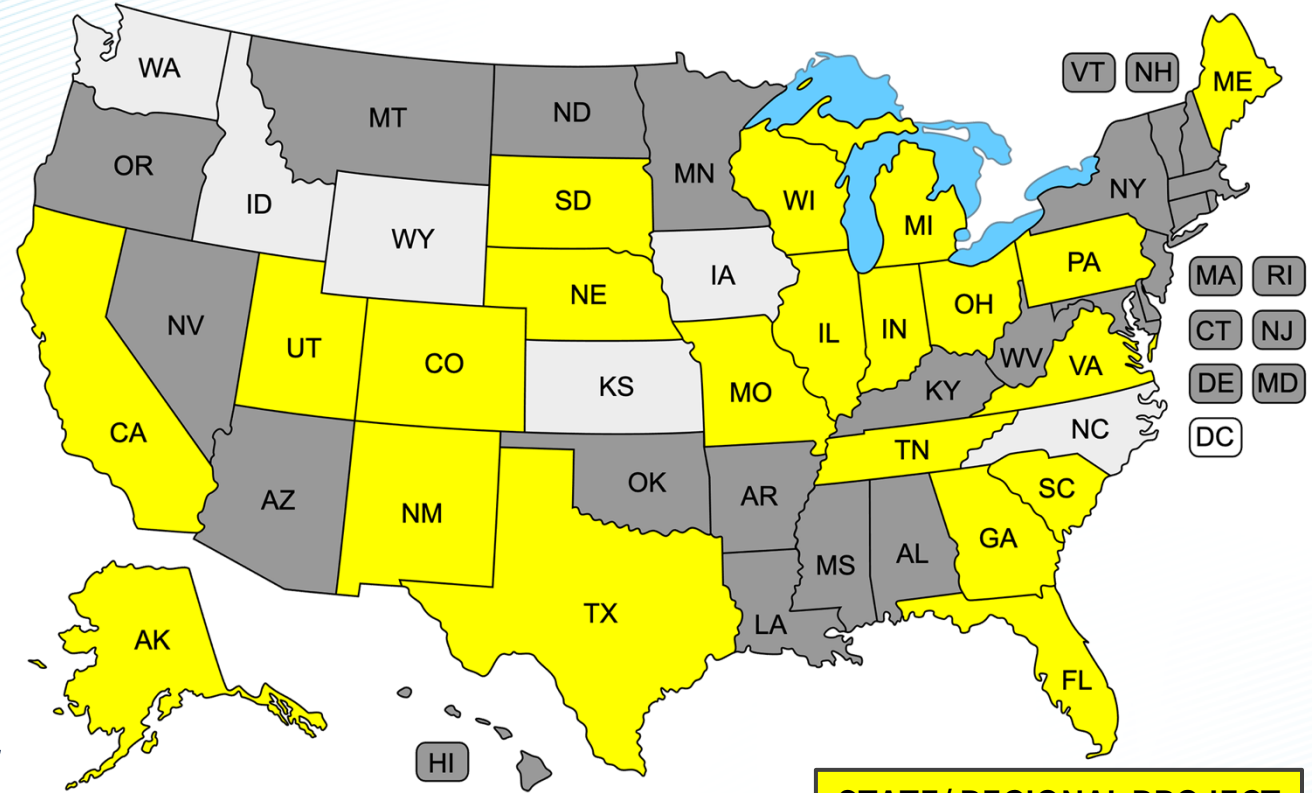
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# Around the U.S.

 Active in 21 states and U.S. territories

 Each program has the same mission and offer similar resources and opportunities.

 Often housed with a University/Extension



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# In Illinois

## 72,650 farms

that cumulatively harvest

## over 27 million acres

These farms are operated by

## 118,000 producers



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# In Illinois

In addition, there are approximately

**56,000 hired workers,**

**59,000 unpaid workers,**

**33,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers**



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# In Illinois

Average age of farmer is

**58 years old**



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# Do I qualify?



 Focus on those involved in agriculture

 For the AgrAbility program, a person with a disability is defined as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as work, daily living and education.

- Ex. arthritis, spinal cord injuries/paralysis, back impairments, amputations, brain injury, visual impairments, hearing impairments, disabling diseases, cerebral palsy, respiratory impairments, head injury, etc.



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So, you or someone you know who works in agriculture (farmer, veteran, or farm worker) has a disability and could use some help....

**What can AgrAbility do for them?**








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# Services Offered

-  Identifying farmers, veterans or farmworkers with disabilities and/or chronic diseases
-  Conducting FREE onsite farm assessments
-  Recommending safe equipment or devices
-  Providing educational opportunities and informational resources
-  Referring clients to other service providers for potential assistance



# Onsite Farm Assessment





-  Come out to your farm to assess current and potential barriers
-  Evaluate a piece of equipment to determine best use of a lift or other assistive technology



# Onsite Farm Assessment



-  Recommend adjustments to buildings, equipment, farm routine, etc.
-  Get a sense of your daily farm work and routine with your disability

**We are available year-round!**





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# What is Assistive Technology?



-  Assistive technology consists of practices, devices, tools, modifications, processes and a special knowledge of science and engineering that are used to enable a person to perform a desired task.
-  In the context of this program, assistive technology enables a person with a disability to complete desired tasks within an agricultural setting.



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# National AgrAbility Toolbox

<http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/>



English

Staff Login

Toll Free (800) 825-4264



HOME ABOUT SERVICES IN YOUR STATE **THE TOOLBOX AT DATABASE** RESOURCES NEWS TRAINING & EVENTS FAQ CONTACT



## THE TOOLBOX

### Assistive Technology Database

*The Toolbox: Agricultural Tools, Equipment, Machinery & Buildings for Farmers and Ranchers with Physical Disabilities* is a resource that contains assistive technology solutions for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

You can [View by Category](#) or [Search](#) the Toolbox to find products, designs, ideas, techniques, and suggestions.

In addition to the database, there are several [technical reports](#), providing techniques and suggestions focused on a specific topic on farming/ranching with a disability.

The Toolbox is based upon the print and CD versions of the product bearing the same name, published by the Breaking New Ground Resource Center (BNG). The new online format allows for added features, such as enhanced search and browse capabilities, video clips, hyperlinks to the web sites of product suppliers, full-color photographs, and continuously updated solution fact sheets.

**Note:** You cannot order Toolbox items from or through AgrAbility. You must obtain them through the manufacturer or supplier. See the bottom of each Toolbox information page.

- [View by Category](#) The Toolbox through the table of contents
- [Search](#) The Toolbox for a specific item







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# Request Services

**If you are interested in receiving AgrAbility services, you can fill out a brief form and our team will be in touch with you!**

-  **We can answer any questions**
-  **Determine if AgrAbility is the right program for you**
-  **Assist you every step of the way**
-  **All information will be kept CONFIDENTIAL**

**We are available year-round!**



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# Educational Opportunities

 **Webinars/Events**  
Injury prevention, mental health, stress, assistive technology, etc.



 **Programs/Courses**  
Chronic Pain/Disease Self-Management courses

 **Resources**  
Handouts, factsheets, newsletters, etc.





# Connect with AgrAbility

-  To stay connected with IL AgrAbility and learn about upcoming events, webinars, newsletters, etc. utilize the QR code
-  Does your state offer an AgrAbility program?



**National  
AgrAbility**

**Illinois  
AgrAbility**



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# Thank you!

Call: 217-244-2948

Email: [agrability@illinois.edu](mailto:agrability@illinois.edu)

## Haley Jones

Illinois AgrAbility Coordinator  
[haleyj@illinois.edu](mailto:haleyj@illinois.edu)



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# Farm Rescue<sup>®</sup>

HELPING FARM AND RANCH FAMILIES IN CRISIS



**Terry  
Johnston**



# Mission Statement

Farm Rescue is a 501(c)(3) and our mission is to help family farms and ranches bridge crises so they have an opportunity to continue viable operations. Farm Rescue provides planting, haying, harvesting, commodity hauling (crops & hay) and livestock feeding assistance to farm and ranch families that have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. We have assisted nearly **1,000 farm and ranch families** since our inception in 2005!



# Mission Statement

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, harvest or provide for their herd.

Farm Rescue gives families a chance to continue their livelihood by providing the necessary equipment and manpower (free of charge) to get the job done.





# Farm Rescue™

## President & Founder Bill Gross

Farm Rescue was founded by Bill Gross a native of North Dakota. Unfortunately it was not possible to continue the family's farming legacy at a young age due to financial constraints.

Bill went on to attend the University of North Dakota to secure an undergraduate degree in BBA and was later awarded an honorary Doctorate degree of Human Letters. During his time at the university, he also secured several pilot ratings and an Airline Transport Pilot certificate.

However, his heart never left the farming and ranching community. From a bird's eye view as a Boeing 747 Captain, flying back and forth across our nation at 40,000 feet, Bill kept looking at the farms below. The changing demographics of rural America - fewer farms, less children per family, fewer neighbors - troubled him. And always in the back of his mind, he remembered his father's concern about what would happen to their farm should anything debilitating happen.

Bill Gross launched Farm Rescue in 2005 and continues to serve in a volunteer capacity as Chairman of the board. The nonprofit has become a well-known, successful organization with dedicated volunteers throughout the nation and a strong following of supporters.

# Farm Rescue™

## Board of Directors



**Bill Gross**  
President



**Kyle Nelson**  
Vice President



**Jed Wall**  
Treasurer



**Shaun Sipma**  
Secretary



**Rebecca Udem**  
Director

# FarmRescue™ Staff



**Nate Clark**  
Executive Director



**Tim Sullivan**  
Senior Development Officer  
ND-SD-MN-MT



**Dan Erdmann**  
Marketing Program Manager



**Steph Hasbargen**  
Office Manager



**Terry Johnston**  
Development Officer  
IA-IL-NE-KS-WI



**Luke Benedict**  
Sr. Field Operations  
Manager ND-SD-MN-MT



**Genita Limke**  
Volunteer Coordinator



**Stephanie Green**  
Outreach Coordinator



**Jennifer Thuerer**  
Field Operations Support  
Assitant



**Ben Smith**  
Field Operations Manager  
IA-IL-NE-KS-WI



# Farm Rescue™ Volunteers



*Farm Rescue volunteers  
are the heart and soul  
of our organization.*

*These “Angels in Blue”  
are the boots on the ground.*



*When Farm Rescue  
assisted its first case in  
2006, our volunteer  
family consisted of a  
single crew.*



*That small group has  
grown into an army of  
do-gooders representing  
nearly every U.S. state.*

# Farm Rescue™ Volunteers



**Volunteers come from all walks of life.**

**We're blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers willing to give of themselves. In the field, on the phone or behind the wheel, everyone plays an important role in our mission.**

# Value Beyond the Field Work

More than 300 people volunteered for mission essential work in 2022.

Personal experience's & stories to share.

More than 2,000 people have volunteered for farm rescue mission work since 2006



## 2022 Assisted Farm & Ranch Families

100+ Farm Families were assisted with Spring Planting, Haying, Harvest & Livestock Feeding Assistance



**Corey & Susie Nitschke**  
Broken Ribs & Shoulder



**Corey & Joan Refshaw**  
Cancer



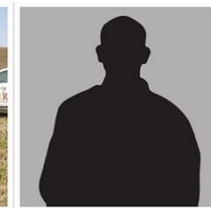
**Clarence & Nola Roth**  
Hip Surgery



**Donald & Lynn Karst**  
Illness



**Monty & Terri Kline**  
Cancer



**George & Gloria Lawler**  
Cancer



**Steven Meland**  
Illness



**Bill & Bonnie Meuchel**  
ATV Accident



**Brad Mitzel**  
Multiple Sclerosis



**Joseph & Amelia Haman**  
Illness



**Paul & Renee Ivesdal**  
COVID-19



**Jason & Becky Johnson**  
Cancer



**Jerry & Jean Schaefer**  
Back Surgery



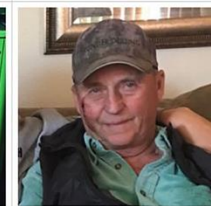
**Dale & Jane Seppanen**  
Knee Injury



**David & Tina Skjoldal**  
ATV Accident



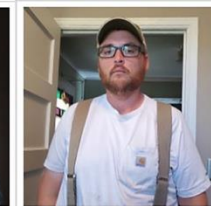
**Alton & Tammy Lien**  
Broken Arm



**Darrie Lindberg**  
Stroke



**Barry & Holly Mawby**  
Cancer



**Derek Morey**  
Illness



**Clay & Claudine Mullin**  
Stroke



**Joel & Karmell Newman**  
Liver Surgery



**Roland & Andrew Bromley**  
Cancer



**Sam & Renae Brossart**  
Cancer



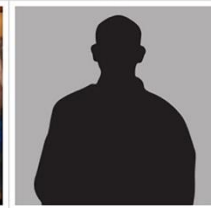
**John & Kimberly Cook**  
Broken Leg



**Ron Decker**  
Cancer



**Dennis & Corrine Flemmer**  
Fire



**Randy & Brandon Friez**  
Illness



**Rob & Lori Ash**  
Illness



**Dennis Bauer**  
Cancer



**Jeff & Sherry Borgheinnck**  
Cancer



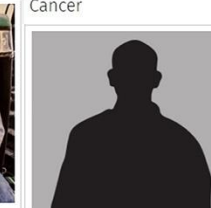
**Greg & Karen Staatz**  
Broken Leg



**Lorenzo Strand**  
Fractured Neck



**Steve & Mary Swanhorst**  
ATV Accident



**Larry & Darlene Ulrich**  
Broken Arm



**Lamoyne & Cynthia Vossler**  
Cancer

# Gary and Barbara Carstens – Charles City, IA

<https://go.illinois.edu/FarmRescue2022>



**Farm Rescue**  
**2022**



# Farm Rescue™ Sponsors

Farm Rescue operations are funded by donations from businesses, organizations and individuals that support America's tradition of independent family farms and strong rural economies.

We do not distribute funds to farmers or ranchers. All donations are used to pay for the many expenses associated with planting, haying, harvesting and livestock feeding.

Farm Rescue's board of directors are also volunteers and receive no monetary compensation. We have a small, eight-member staff keeping the organization running. Supporters of Farm Rescue can feel confident that their donations are directly helping families experiencing unexpected crises.

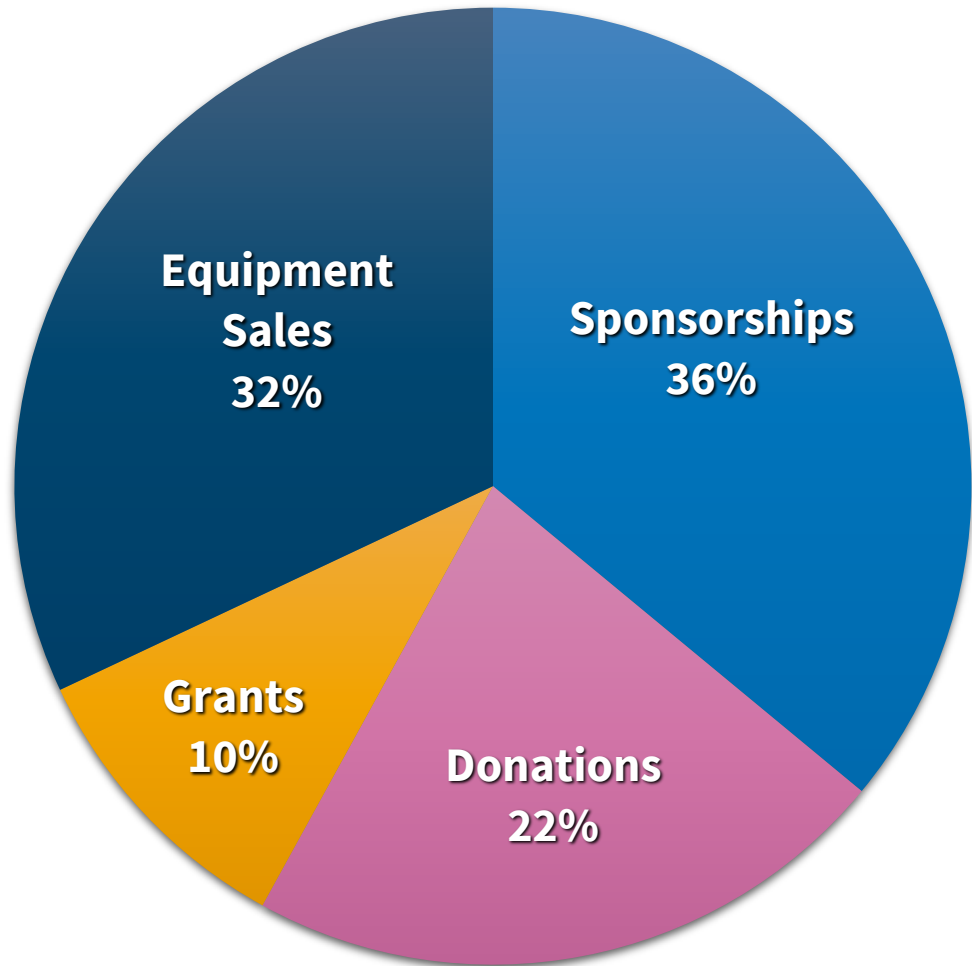


# Farm Rescue™

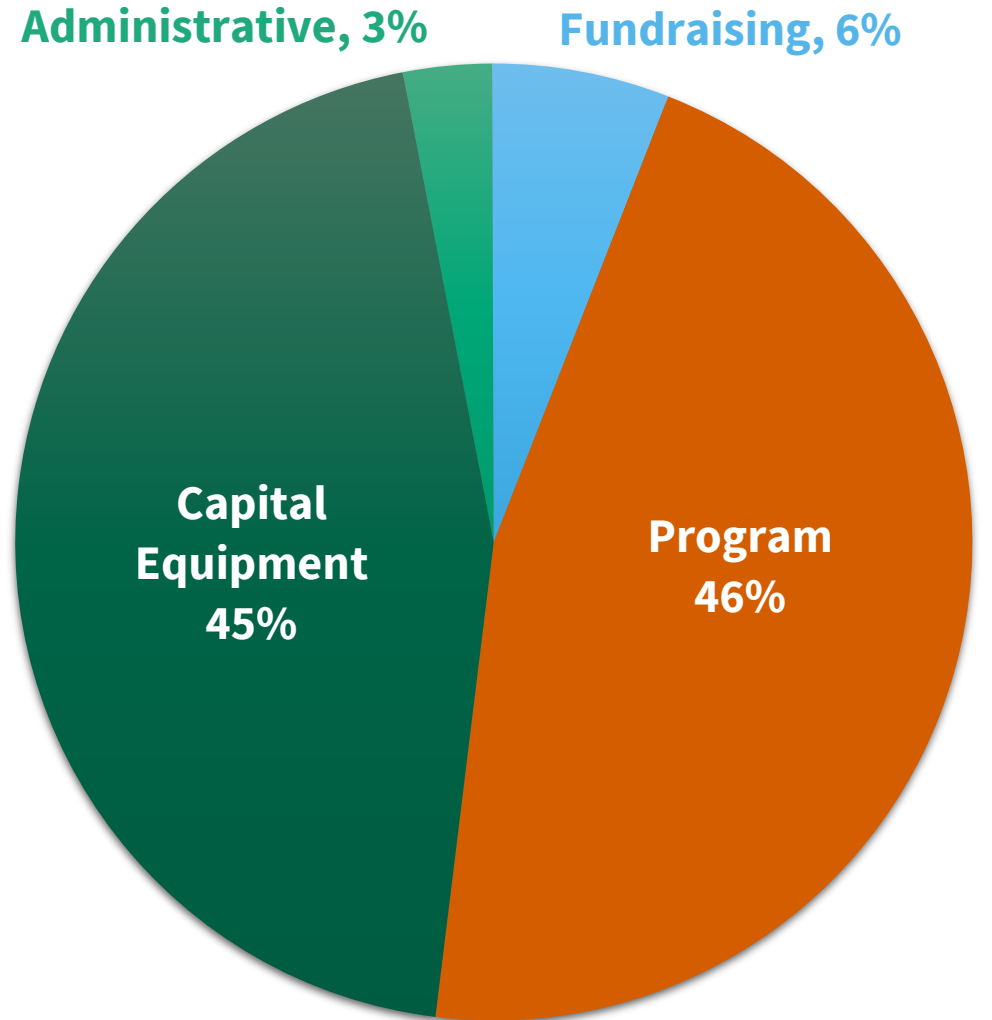
## PARTNER RECOGNITION

LEVEL <small>(Includes financial &amp; in-kind giving)</small>	WEBSITE LOGO	BROCHURE LOGO	SOCIAL MEDIA THANK YOU	VIDEO THANK YOU	PICKUP TRUCK LOGO	TRAILER LOGO	TRACTOR OR COMBINE LOGO	CO-BRANDED ACTIVATION	PERSONALIZED VOLUNTEER EVENT	STAFF, VOLUNTEER, OR FAMILY EVENT SUPPORT	FOUNDER ENGAGEMENT & RECOGNITION
\$500,000											
\$250,000											
\$100,000											
\$50,000											
\$25,000											
\$10,000											
\$5,000											
\$2,500											
\$1,000											

## Revenue



## Expenses / Utilization





# FarmRescue™ Sponsors

## Premier

*\$250,000 or more annually*



## Signature

*\$100,000 or more annually*

## Diamond

*\$50,000 or more annually*



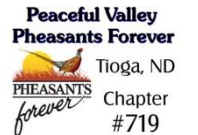
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## Platinum

\$10,000 or more annually



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## Gold

\$5,000 or more annually

## Silver

\$2,500 or more annually





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FARMS

**Farm Rescue**  
Helping Farm Families in Crisis

#BeAFarmRescuer

- DONATE
- VOLUNTEER
- REFER A FAMILY
- SHARE OUR MISSION

FarmRescue.org

JOHN DEERE

FarmRescue.org

FarmRescue.org









Wilson TRAILER COMPANY

BUHLER-LOCK

MOOSEHAWK LX3



Helping Farm Families in Crisis  
**Farm Rescue**



ANHEUSER-BUSCH

**PROUD SPONSOR**

farmrescue.org

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# Farm Rescue<sup>™</sup> Working Together

## Community Engagement/Awareness Spreading the word

- Brochures w/displays, signs, etc. available
- Events/Trade Shows
- E-news/Newsletters
- Social Media – Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn
- Networking- community/peers/family

## Volunteers

- Sign up yourself
- Community/peers/family

## Fundraising

- Concerts/Events/landowners/community/peers/family



# Farm Rescue™

[www.farmrescue.org](http://www.farmrescue.org)

- Lots of great info: news/pics/videos
- Apply for assistance/refer a family
- Sign up to volunteer
- Make a donation





**Farm Rescue**<sup>™</sup>  
[www.farmrescue.org](http://www.farmrescue.org)



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