



*Brothers Jerome, left, and Ron Behm received help from Farm Rescue this spring after they both had medical problems.*

## Farm Rescue helps Burlington area brothers

by Tom Rafferty

**T**here is no forgiveness when it comes to planting a crop. It has to be planted at the right time and it has to be done right.

That is one of the things Ron Behm knows after having farmed with his brother, Jerome, for decades on a farm near Burlington in Verendrye Electric Cooperative territory.

Like many North Dakota farmers, these brothers are tough, determined and hardworking. But sometimes even the toughest farmers need a helping hand to get the crop planted in time.

The brothers realized they needed help this year after they each suffered

separate health problems — Ron from an accident with a bull and Jerome from problems related to anemia.

Their health problems did not keep them from farming, but they knew they could not plant this year's crop without some outside help. That's when they decided to call Farm Rescue.

"A lot of wheat that was seeded wouldn't have been seeded if it wasn't for Farm Rescue," Ron said.

Ron was injured Nov. 15 when a bull unexpectedly charged him while he was on horseback. The incident was captured on film and the bull could be seen charging him with three powerful thrusts. The bull's horn gored his leg, breaking bones and tearing skin and

flesh with each thrust.

"I thought I was going to be dead. I thought I wouldn't be able to see my grandchildren grow up," Ron said.

Having Ron out of the operation for a while was tough, but with the help of family and friends, they were able to continue their farm work through the winter while Ron recovered. Then Jerome began having health problems in the spring. He underwent surgery for various complications, including internal bleeding, due to anemia he has been fighting for several years.

In March, Jerome had two surgeries. His chest was opened and he has the scars to prove it.

"I'll tell you what, when they open those ribs, boy does that hurt afterwards," Jerome said.

The Behms were able to have their family and neighbors help, but Ron said it was tough because other farmers also had their own work to do and family and friends had to work around their job schedules.

Ron is very relieved and grateful he called Farm Rescue, but at first he was unsure if he should call.

"I was really reluctant about calling because I had never solicited for help like this in my life," Ron said.

Both of them helped work alongside the Farm Rescue volunteers in late May and June, but they were limited in the amount of work they could do. Ron walks with a noticeable limp and his leg swells when he does too much. Jerome gets tired more easily and has to rest more



*The Farm Rescue tractor and seeder are a welcome sight to farmers who need help. Farm Rescue volunteer Gene Spichke, left, helps Jerome Behm in a field near Burlington in June.*