

Adams farmers aid Nebraskans

Gettysburg Times

[By Beth Kanagy Times Staff Writer](#)

May 20, 2019

Nebraska was devastated by historic flooding in March. Losses topped \$1 billion. Roads and levees washed out, and livestock and crop losses topped \$800 million, according to the Associated Press.

On Saturday, at Getty Acres farm, the Adams County Farm Bureau took steps to reach out to farmers in Elkhorn, Nebraska, by sending a tractor-trailer load of hay to the flood ravaged area. It was the first of two loads of hay to make the trek. Tom Clowney of the Adams County Farm Bureau said the group has been reading about the plight of the Nebraska farmers in agriculture newspapers and recognized there was a need.

“It’s going to be maybe a year until they can clean up debris from the flooding,” said Clowney.

“Other farm bureaus are donating,” said Clowney. “The board approved it and farmers from Adams County donated.”

Last year was a tough year for Adams County farmers, he said. Those who had hay donated what they could. Those who couldn’t donate hay donated money. “Five FFAs donated \$1,000 to the effort and the 4-H donated \$500,” said Clowney. The result of this effort was 18 tons of hay being shipped to Nebraska in two loads.

It was important to get the hay collected and shipped quickly as Adams County farmers will soon be busy with their own field work, Clowney said. Shipping two loads of hay isn’t inexpensive. But Bob Zeigler, himself a farmer and a truck driver, said he was happy to help at no charge.

“We had plenty of help when I was laid up twice for six months at a time,” said Zeigler. “I want to give back in any way I can.” It will take about a day and a half to get to Nebraska, Zeigler said.

“Roads in Nebraska have been completely washed away, but the director of the Nebraska Farm Bureau has secured storage for the incoming hay outside the flood zone and will use tractors to get the hay where it’s needed,” said Dan Wilkenson of Getty Acres.

In addition to hay, the farm bureau is also sending fencing materials to Nebraska.

“We just want to do what we can to help,” said Zeigler. The second load will begin its trip to Nebraska in a week.