



**August 2009**

## **National AgrAbility Project News**

**Farmer/rancher scholarship applications for the 2009 NTW are due by Friday, August 14.** For more information on scholarships, contact Paul Jones at [jonesp@purdue.edu](mailto:jonesp@purdue.edu) or see <http://workshop.agrability.org/scholarships.html>.

Samuel Mathew, the National AgrAbility Project's VR Specialist, will present a webinar on August 27 discussing the important relationships between AgrAbility and state Vocational Rehabilitation services. [More](#)

AgrAbility Communities of Interest and Standing Committees are beginning in August and early September. [More](#)

Amber Wolfe hosted an Arthritis and Agriculture webinar on the Agri-Safe Network on July 8th. The recording of the webinar is in the Agri-Safe archives at [www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org). [More](#)

An Arthritis Foundation Scholarship is being offered for an Arthritis Foundation client to attend the AgrAbility National Training Workshop. [More](#)

Help spread the word about the 2009 AgrAbility National Training Workshop in Grand Rapids. Direct your customers and interested professionals to the conference site at <http://ntw2009.agrability.org/>.

## **State and Regional AgrAbility Project News**

### **California**

CalAgrAbility staff has been invited to conduct workshops for employers and farm workers of several large agricultural operations in Northern California. [More](#)

### **Colorado**

According to the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation 2008 Annual Report, Colorado AgrAbility was listed as 'the best illustration' of their approach to Self-Employment Programs. [More](#)

Sodexo, a food and facilities management company based in Maryland, contacted the

Colorado AgrAbility Project for information to write articles on 2 clients aided by funding from the Sodexo/Easter Seals Cartridges for Kids recycling program. [More](#)

### **Georgia**

In August, AgrAbility in Georgia and the Arthritis Foundation Georgia Chapter will kick off a series of workshops on *Gardening and Farming with Arthritis* with an introductory Tai Chi class. [More](#)

AgrAbility in Georgia just unveiled their newly redesigned website [www.farmagain.com](http://www.farmagain.com). [More](#)

AgrAbility in Georgia is pleased to announce that the Arthritis Foundation Georgia Chapter has joined the project as a non-profit partner. [More](#)

### **Kansas**

The 17th, 18th and 19th of July was a busy time for Kansas AgrAbility as they staffed a booth at the Four State Farm Show in Pittsburg, KS. [More](#)

### **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma AgrAbility recently completed a 6-week Arthritis Foundation Self-Help training. [More](#)

### **Virginia**

Congratulations to Dr. Robert (Bobby) Grisso, the Virginia Tech Primary Investigator for AgrAbility Virginia, and Professor of Biological Systems Engineering in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and farm equipment and safety specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension, upon his election into the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' (ASABE) 2009 Class of Fellows. [More](#)

### **Wisconsin**

AgrAbility of Wisconsin participated in Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, a large outdoor farm show that took place July 21-23 on a dairy farm that had more than 1000 cows, a cheese factory, and two manure digesters. [More](#)

### **Wyoming**

Wyoming AgrAbility participated in the UW College of Agriculture Research and Extension field days where they explained AgrAbility and demonstrated adaptive devices for ranch and farm equipment to agricultural producers and professionals. [More](#)

Wyoming AgrAbility staff recently conducted a training on AT: Enabling Individuals to Maintain Independence at the WY Conference on Aging in Cheyenne, WY [More](#)

## Staff Changes

## National Project

The National AgrAbility Project and Indiana AgrAbility are pleased to welcome Kim Stockment to our team as AgrAbility Program Engagement Coordinator. [More](#)

## Kansas

Mr. Steve Hoover is the newest AgrAbility Specialist in Kansas. Steve has hit the ground running with his first event, the Four State Farm Show. Steve works in the Assistive Technology office in Parsons, KS.

## Wisconsin

Bob Meyer joins the AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff replacing Mary Beck as Outreach Specialist. Bob served as an evaluation specialist on the National AgrAbility Project from 2000-04. More recently he held staff positions in the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department on the UW-Madison campus. During that time he was working on his doctorate degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering Department at UW-Madison. Before joining the National Project he was employed on the Healthy Farmers Healthy Profits program in the Biological Systems Engineering at UW-Madison. His email address is [rhmeyer1@wisc.edu](mailto:rhmeyer1@wisc.edu) and phone number is 608-262-9336.

## AgrAbility in the News

[Click here for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects](#)

- Assistance Available to farmers, rural caregivers
- AgrAbility and Easter Seals Help Local Farmer
- USDA grants assist farmers with disabilities
- USDA grant in Idaho will keep disabled farmers working
- Goodwill and Universities Team Up to Aid Farmers with Disabilities

## Other News

[Click here for other news of interest to AgrAbility staff members](#)

- Producing profits (Agri-Toursim)
- World's first double-arm transplant recipient - a farmer - calls "Being whole again" indescribable

## Upcoming Events

[Click here for professional development events related to AgrAbility](#)

Problems? Contact Clifford Racz, National AgrAbility Project, [racz@purdue.edu](mailto:racz@purdue.edu)



**August 2009**

**National Project**

Samuel Mathew, the National AgrAbility Project's VR Specialist, will present a webinar discussing the important relationship between AgrAbility and state Vocational Rehabilitation services. The webinar titled: **AgrAbility/ Vocational Rehabilitation Relationships: Where are we now, and where should we be going?** will be held on August 27, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. EDT; 2:00 p.m. CDT; 1:00 p.m. MDT; 12:00 p.m. PDT.

AgrAbility representatives from 24 states participated in a phone survey on their relationships with state VR agencies. The purpose of this webinar is to share the information collected.

To participate in this free webinar, email [agrability@agrability.org](mailto:agrability@agrability.org) by August 21 and simply put the word "Webinar" in the subject line. [More](#)

The National AgrAbility Project and Indiana AgrAbility are pleased to welcome Kim Stockment to the team as AgrAbility Program Engagement Coordinator. In this capacity, Kim will be responsible for coordinating public awareness activities, helping to plan and conduct training events, and facilitating publications. In addition, she will be coordinating relationships with Indiana AgrAbility partners, providing some direct services to customers, and helping to facilitate youth-oriented initiatives.

Kim comes to AgrAbility from Purdue's Conferences Division, where she coordinated over 70 programs a year (including the 2008 AgrAbility NTW), hosting anywhere from 15-2500 people. She has a strong background in agriculture, having graduated from Purdue's College of Agriculture with a degree in Agriculture Communications in 2005. Kim is a 10 year 4-H member, and has a strong background with FFA, having served as a State Officer in 2000-2001.

You can reach Kim at [kstockme@purdue.edu](mailto:kstockme@purdue.edu) or 765-494-6679. Please contact her if she may be of service to you.

AgrAbility Communities of Interest (COI) and Standing Committees are beginning in August and early September. The following are the initial conference call dates and facilitator contact information:

- Arthritis COI: August 12; Amber Wolfe; [awolfe@arthritis.org](mailto:awolfe@arthritis.org)
- Mental/Behavioral Health COI: August 14; Gail Deboy; [deboy@purdue.edu](mailto:deboy@purdue.edu)
- Ergonomics COI: August 26; Rob Stuthridge; [rstuthri@purdue.edu](mailto:rstuthri@purdue.edu)
- VR COI: August 27; Sam Mathew; [snm@purdue.edu](mailto:snm@purdue.edu)
- Marketing Standing Committee: early September; Kim Stockment; [kstockme@purdue.edu](mailto:kstockme@purdue.edu)
- Networking Standing Committee: early September; Eric Olson; [eric.olson@goodwill.org](mailto:eric.olson@goodwill.org)

Please contact the facilitators for more information on joining the respective groups.

Amber Wolfe hosted an "Arthritis and Agriculture" webinar on the Agri-Safe Network on July 8th. The recording of the webinar is in the Agri-Safe archives at [www.agrisafe.org](http://www.agrisafe.org).

An Arthritis Foundation Scholarship is being offered for an Arthritis Foundation client to attend the AgrAbility National Training Workshop. Nomination/application forms are available from Amber Wolfe at [awolfe@arthritis.org](mailto:awolfe@arthritis.org) or 1-800-783-2342. Scholarship applicants/nominees must be an agricultural worker that is affected in their work by arthritis.

Submitted by Amber Wolfe

Help spread the word about the 2009 AgrAbility National Training Workshop in Grand Rapids. Direct your customers and interested professionals to the conference site at <http://ntw2009.agrability.org/>.

Submitted by: Liz Semmel

The logo for AgrAbility e-Note, featuring a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the text "AgrAbility e-Note" in a green, sans-serif font.**August 2009****California**

Cal AgrAbility staff has been invited to conduct workshops for employers and farm workers of several large agricultural operations in Northern California.

Training staff focused on recognizing the cultural influences and stressors from farm life on growers and workers and identifying the physical hazards encountered in the farm environment. An emphasis on hazard assessments and injury prevention opened up discussion on the impacts of disability and injury and how to work safely under these circumstances to reduce secondary injuries. The introduction of Cal AgrAbility to employers and workers was well-received as many employees are not rehired after an injury occurs. Additional outreach to some of the larger commodity associations (i.e., grapes, cattle, poultry, citrus) will hopefully garner interest in learning more about injury reduction and farming with disabilities.

Submitted by: Martha Stiles

The logo for AgrAbility e-Note, featuring a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the text "AgrAbility e-Note" in a green, sans-serif font.**August 2009****Colorado**

According to the Colorado Division of Vocational, Rehabilitation's 2008 Annual Report, Colorado AgrAbility was listed as "the best illustration" of their approach to Self-Employment Programs. Colorado AgrAbility is also now listed as a "Partner" on the Colorado VR website.

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Sodexo, a food and facilities management company based in Maryland, contacted the Colorado AgrAbility Project for information to write articles on 2 clients aided by funding from the Sodexo/Easter Seals Cartridges for Kids recycling program. The Sodexo staff involved were excited about the help this program has provided to farm & ranch families in Colorado and other states. Hopefully sharing success stories within the company will result in even more support in the future.

Submitted by: Vince Luke



**August 2009**

**Georgia**

In August, AgrAbility in Georgia and the Arthritis Foundation Georgia Chapter will kick off a series of workshops on **Gardening and Farming with Arthritis** with an introductory Tai Chi class. The workshops will be offered at various locations around the state. In addition to the arthritis workshop, AgrAbility in Georgia has a wide variety of upcoming training opportunities available. Learn more at [www.farmagain.com/register](http://www.farmagain.com/register).

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AgrAbility in Georgia just unveiled their newly redesigned website – [www.farmagain.com](http://www.farmagain.com). Be sure to check out their blog and you can now catch them on Twitter and Facebook

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AgrAbility in Georgia is pleased to announce that the Arthritis Foundation Georgia Chapter has joined the project as a non-profit partner. They will be joining with Georgia's other non-profit partner, Shepherd Center, to serve agricultural workers in the state.

Submitted by: Becky Brightwell



**August 2009**

**Kansas**

The 17th, 18th and 19th of July was a busy time for Kansas AgrAbility as they staffed a booth at the Four State Farm Show in Pittsburg, KS. The great weather contributed to a great turn out and provided opportunity to talk with many area farmers and ranchers about some of the helpful tools available and discuss what AgrAbility in Kansas involves. Many attendees were glad to hear of the help available and asked for follow up information.

Submitted by: Steve Hoover



**August 2009**

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma AgrAbility recently completed a 6-week Arthritis Foundation Self-Help training. Participants learned how to become a better self-advocate in their management of arthritis as well as relaxation techniques and pain management. Sandra Stevenson with ABLE Tech and Elicia Pollard with the School of Physical Therapy, Langston University, served as co-trainers and implemented a true partnership for AgrAbility. Farm Service Agency (FSA) sponsored the cost of the training manual, allowing the class to be offered at no-cost to the participants. Due to the high interest in the classes, a waiting list was created to for future participants to take the next class in the spring of 2010.

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Events from June and July:

**June 18 – July 23, Arthritis Foundation Self Help Class**, Oklahoma State University Stillwater Campus Seretean Wellness Center

**June 23, Payne County Progressive Safety Day**, Stillwater

**June 29, Department of Rehabilitation Services Staff Training**, Tulsa

**July 8 – 10, Annual meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Extension Agriculture Agents**, Stillwater

**July 13, Oklahoma Home and Community Education Conference**, Oklahoma City Clarion Convention Center

**July 28 – 29, 4-H Roundup**, Oklahoma State University Stillwater Campus

Submitted by: Amanda Erichsen



**August 2009**

**Virginia**

Congratulations to Dr. Robert (Bobby) Grisso, the Virginia Tech Primary Investigator for AgrAbility Virginia, and Professor of Biological Systems Engineering in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and farm equipment and safety specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension, upon his election into the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' (ASABE) 2009 Class of Fellows. Dr. Grisso was formally presented with the honor at the annual ASABE meeting in Reno, Nev., on June 23. The rank of Fellow is bestowed on less than 2 percent of the society's members. According to ASABE, a Fellow is "... a member of unusual professional distinction, with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in, or related to, the field of agricultural, food, or biological systems engineering." Fellows have at least 20 years of experience in the engineering or engineering education field and have been a member of the organization for at least 20 years.

Submitted by: Kirk Ballin

The logo for AgrAbility e-Note, featuring a green square with a white stylized 'A' and 'B' icon, followed by the text 'AgrAbility e-Note' in a green sans-serif font.**August 2009****Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, a large outdoor farm show, took place July 21-23 on a dairy farm that had more than 1000 cows, a cheese factory and two manure digesters. More than 80,000 visitors attended the show which had sixty acres of exhibits and more than 800 exhibits including AgrAbility of Wisconsin. This exhibit was staffed by Outreach Specialist Bob Meyer, two FARM Easter Seals staff Bruce Whitmore and Jeff Kratochwill and UW students Laura Bahn and Allie Holschbach. Scooters were available to visitors with disabilities at a subsidized cost of \$25 per day. About 70 scooters were rented each day of the show. Many visitors also brought their own powered wheel chairs and scooters.

Submitted by: Bob Meyer

The logo for AgrAbility e-Note, featuring a green square with a white stylized 'A' and 'B' icon, followed by the text 'AgrAbility e-Note' in a green sans-serif font.**August 2009****Wyoming**

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Wyoming AgrAbility staff recently conducted a training on AT: Enabling Individuals to Maintain Independence at the WY Conference on Aging in Cheyenne, WY

Submitted by: Randolph R. Weigel and Mary Fick Monteith

## AgrAbility e-Note

August 2009

### AgrAbility in the News

#### Assistance Available to farmers, rural caregivers

7/6/09

Ft Wayne Herald Republican

Programs mentioned: Indiana AgrAbility-Breaking New Ground

[Read Story](#)

#### AgrAbility and Easter Seals Help Local Farmer

7/23/09

Yuma Pioneer

Programs Mentioned: Colorado AgrAbility, Easter Seals Colorado, Colorado

Division of VR

#### USDA grants assist farmers with disabilities

7/5/2009

Wisconsin Agriculturalist

Programs Mentioned: AgrAbility, USDA

[Read Story](#)

#### USDA grant in Idaho will keep disabled farmers working

7/31/09

Media dis&dat disability blog

Programs mentioned: AgrAbility, Idaho AgrAbility, Idaho Center for Assistive Technology

[Read Story](#)

#### Goodwill and Universities Team Up to Aid Farmers with Disabilities

7/23/2009

Chronicle of Philanthropy, Vol 21 issue #19

Programs mentioned: AgrAbility Project, Goodwill

# fwdailynews.com

Keeping People Connected in Northeast Indiana & Northwest Ohio

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

## Print Version

Print Page

Last modified: Monday, July 6, 2009 2:07 AM EDT

Assistance available to farmers, rural caregivers

By Amy Oberlin

[amy@kpcnews.net](mailto:amy@kpcnews.net)

ANGOLA - Farmers who thought they could no longer do their work due to a disability may find help from the League for the Blind and the Disabled and Purdue University.

"Purdue's breaking new ground," said Mike Hines, AgrAbility case coordinator for the League, headquartered in Fort Wayne.

The Indiana AgrAbility Project helps farmers and rural residents who are caregivers of the blind or disabled, or disabled farmers themselves. It is administered through a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program by Purdue and several disability and

Ed Bell of Hagerstown gets a lift onto his tractor with equipment made possible through the League for the Blind and the Disabled, headquartered in Fort Wayne.  
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

agriculture-related organizations. It has been in the works for about a year-and-a-half, and Hines said the League is trying to get the word out.

Farming has one of the highest disabling injury rates of any industry. Nineteen percent of people involved in such an accident cannot return to their work due to a disability.

The services offered through Breaking New Ground and Indiana AgrAbility focus on disabilities that include spinal cord injury, back injuries, arthritis, stroke, respiratory impairment, amputation, visual impairment, hearing problems, head injury and disease-related disabilities. They provide resources and information about worksite modifications, adaptive tools, business and education programs and alternative enterprises. Representatives make on-site visits, and training is available. There is a Barn Builders support network as well.

More details are available at [agrability.org](http://agrability.org) or (800) 825-4264.

-- CLOSE WINDOW --

## AgrAbility e-Note

**August 2009**

### **Other News**

#### **Producing profits**

Greg Hochstedler owns a 160-acre spread not far from his Knightstown childhood home, which he has dubbed Boondocks Farms. He sells all varieties of produce, but he makes the biggest part of his living from a whole different kind of cash crop: tourism. [Read Story](#)

#### **World's first double-arm transplant recipient calls "Being whole again" indescribable**

Doctors spent 15 hours on July 25-26 grafting the donor arms onto the body of 54-year-old Karl Merk, who lost his own just below the shoulder in a farm accident involving a combine six years ago. [Read Story](#)



**August 2009**

**Upcoming Events**

**\* new addition this month**

**Name \*** AgrAbility/Vocational Rehabilitation Relationships: Where are we now, and where should we be going?

**Dates** August 27, 2009 3:00 PM EST

**City, State** webinar

**Contact Info/web link** Sam Mathew, AgrAbility VR Specialist  
[snm@purdue.edu](mailto:snm@purdue.edu)

to register email: [agrability@agrability.org](mailto:agrability@agrability.org) by August 21 and put "webinar" in the subject line

[more information](#)

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**Name \*** AgrAbility Arthritis Community of Interest First Conference Call

**Dates** August 12, 2009 11AM EST

**City, State**

**Contact Info/web link** facilitated by Amber Wolfe, Arthritis Foundation-IN Chapter  
Please RSVP to Amber: [awolfe@arthritis.org](mailto:awolfe@arthritis.org) by August 5th

**Name \*** Oklahoma AgrAbility Fall Conference-Rehabilitating Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers

**Dates** October 23-24, 2009

**City, State** Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Campus, Stillwater, OK

**Contact Info/web link** Sandra Stevenson, Program Manager  
888-885-5588, [sandrastevenson@okstate.edu](mailto:sandrastevenson@okstate.edu)  
<http://agrability.okstate.edu>

**Name** Rural Rehabilitation: Agricultural Assessment and Accommodation/ A Two-Day Workshop for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists

**Dates** September 11-12, 2009

**City, State** Lewisburg, WV

**Contact Info/web link** Inetta Fluharty: (304) 771-8747  
366 Frew Circle, Middlebourne, WV 26149  
[ifluharty@rcvideo.com](mailto:ifluharty@rcvideo.com)

## AgrAbility/Vocational Rehabilitation Relationships: Where are we now, and where should we be going?

**August 27, 2009**

**3:00 p.m. EDT; 2:00 p.m. CDT; 1:00 p.m. MDT; 12:00 p.m. PDT**

One of primary and most challenging tasks of AgrAbility Projects is to help agricultural workers with disabilities get assistive technology and other related modifications and services. Since state Vocational Rehabilitation service divisions are frequently the major funding source for the rehabilitation efforts of AgrAbility customers, the AgrAbility/VR relationship is very important. AgrAbility representatives from 24 states participated in a phone survey on their relationships with state VR agencies. The purpose of this webinar is to share the information collected.

Join the National AgrAbility Project for this **free** webinar that explores such topics as:

- . Funding: what is funded in states and what are the funding limitations
- . Fee for service agreements
- . Conflict resolution
- . "Order of Selection" and its implications
- . Expectations of VR and AgrAbility
- . Methods to enhance relationships

### **Our Presenter:**

Samuel N. Mathew is the National AgrAbility Project's VR Specialist. He served

as VR counselor with Indiana VR before joining NAP in 2008 and worked with a variety of customers during his time with VR.

A question & answer period will follow the presentation.

To participate in this free webinar, email [agrability@agrability.org](mailto:agrability@agrability.org) by August 21 and simply put the word "Webinar" in the subject line. Instructions for accessing the session will be sent to registrants by August 25. Feel free to pass on this invitation to others you believe may be interested. Contact AgrAbility at 800-825-4264 if you have questions.

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