



November 2009

National AgrAbility Project News

Mark your calendars for the 2010 AgrAbility National Training Workshop, October 11-14, in Charleston, West Virginia. The NAP thanks the West Virginia AgrAbility staff for their willingness to host the NTW. More details about the hotel, etc., are coming soon.

The National AgrAbility Project and Indiana AgrAbility, with financial support from NEC Foundation of America, sent an Assistive Technology for Rural Youth curriculum package to every FFA chapter in the U.S. [More](#)

AgrAbility was represented by the NAP and Indiana AgrAbility at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on October 21-23. [More](#)

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

California

California AgrAbility staff was invited to conduct the *Rehabilitating California's Farmers & Workers* Training Workshop for the California Dept. of Rehabilitation, Statewide Assistive Technology Advisory Council in October. About 25 Advisors attended this training.

As a member of the California Small Farm Conference (CSFC) Executive Board, Cal AgrAbility is now recruiting small farmers and agriculture students to attend the 2010 training conference in San Diego. [More](#)

California Arthritis Foundation represented CalAgrAbility at a central valley farm worker health event and disseminated information about both programs. [More](#)

For November, National Diabetes Awareness Month, CalAgrAbility is promoting partner hospital and clinic events. [More](#)

Indiana

Indiana has recently taken on a new adventure by partnering with a Indiana FFA member to serve as a youth ambassador for our program. [More](#)

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility staff presented a segment on *How AgrAbility Networks with Other Providers to Assist Kansas Farmers* and assisted with case study presentations at a mediator training for Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services on October 16 in Manhattan, KS.

Minnesota

Minnesota AgrAbility Project (MAP)-Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota (G/ESM) awarded 20 mini-grants to farmers who had received MAP services but had not received funded Vocational Rehabilitation services. [More](#)

Missouri

At *Bridging Science, Practice, and Culture to Improve Health in the U.S. Virgin Islands*, Willard Downs presented *Lets Talk About Arthritis* poster abstract during the 2nd Annual Health Disparities Institute. [More](#)

Don Schuster, Assistive Technology Coordinator for the Missouri AgrAbility Project exhibited, facilitated, and disseminated disability, health, safety, and wellness information and resource materials during several events across the state. [More](#)

Trisa Nickoley, ACE certified, health education and promotion graduate research assistant with the Missouri AgrAbility Project, Willard Downs, and Karen Funkenbusch continue to finalize their rural lifestyle farmer health and disability survey. [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch presented information about the Missouri AgrAbility Project during the AARP Drive Safely Workshop. [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch is assisting Evan Prost, PT, BS Ed, GCS, Clinical Instructor and Research Assistant for the MU Department of Physical Therapy with his problem based course. [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch and Trisa Nickoley were invited guest speakers for the MU PRT 3220 - Introduction to Recreation for People with Disabilities. [More](#)

Russell Ramsey, volunteer farmer with the Missouri AgrAbility Project, disseminated AgrAbility information and resource materials to local agencies in Southeast Missouri as well as well has been spending time visiting with his local farmers and ranchers to discuss services and assistance provided by the Missouri AgrAbility Project, Farm Service Agency, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. [More](#)

Brad Marsh, Consultant, to the Missouri AgrAbility Project, and Willard Downs are mentoring two student groups who are doing ASM Capstone Projects specific to the

AgrAbility Project.[More](#)

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility shared its mission with thousands of visitors to Husker Harvest Days, the largest totally irrigated working farm show in the world.[More](#)

Rural Rehabilitation Specialist Del Ficke along with Jim Lutz, a peer supporter whose son Jeff has a spinal cord injury, visited with three teens who attended Husker Harvest Days as part of FFA Day in Nebraska.[More](#)

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project and Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services presented to participants at the National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Grand Rapids, Michigan October 5–8, 2009.[More](#)

Oklahoma AgrAbility was awarded a fee-for-service Milestone Contract with Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.[More](#)

The Oklahoma AgrAbility 2009 Fall Workshop *Rehabilitating Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers* was conducted on October 23-24, 2009 in Stillwater, Oklahoma.[More](#)

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project is following the footsteps of the National AgrAbility Project. We are seeing green! The Project now has a crisp, agricultural look. The Oklahoma AgrAbility website, www.agrability.okstate.edu, is up and running with a new look.[More](#)

Oklahoma County Master Gardeners Presentation—Shianne Megel presented the benefits of gardening with the ergonomic tools to more than 150 Master Gardeners in Oklahoma County.[More](#)

Fuel from the Field, Oklahoma Grown—Amanda Erichsen and Shianne Megel attended Oklahoma State University biofuels field day to increase awareness of the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project.[More](#)

Vermont

The Vermont AgrAbility Project has started a new blog.[More](#)

Wisconsin

Mike Hansen, a Wisconsin farmer who attended the National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Michigan last month, was the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Volunteer from Easter

Seals Wisconsin on November 3.[More](#)

West Virginia

Staff presented information at the State Rural Health Conference on WV AgrAbility and how the project involves community and healthcare professionals in identifying farm and rural families in need of services.[More](#)

WV AgrAbility staff had the opportunity to promote awareness of farmers needs at the WV Occupational Therapist Association Conference.[More](#)

AgrAbility and program information was shared at *Women in Agriculture*; an event open to women involved in agriculture in the western counties of West Virginia.[More](#)

Funding was secured and assistive technology devices were installed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services for a Christmas tree farmer. An ag cam, additional step and a heated cab were added to his tractor.[More](#)

Staff Changes

National AgrAbility Project

Sam Mathew, VR Specialist for the NAP, recently completed his Ph.D. work at Purdue and returned to India. Sam will be missed by the NAP team and by many others in AgrAbility. Prior to leaving, Sam recorded several web-based training modules on VR-related topics, and the NAP plans to have those available soon.

Minnesota

Deen Swart has resigned from the Minnesota AgrAbility Project case manager position effective Oct. 9. Deen she has accepted a new position to return to youth focused services. The MN AgrAbility team and the MN farmers thank Deen for the service provided and will miss her.

Brent Larson joined Minnesota AgrAbility on Oct. 19. Brent runs a small family farm in Central MN. Brent has been providing vocational services to rural MN for over 20 years and has well developed relationships with Vocational Rehabilitation Services throughout MN. Brent is the owner operator of his family farming business and Larson Vocational Services and he brings a unique business prospective to MAP.

AgrAbility in the News

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

- State and Regional AgrAbility Program Funding Available to Help Disabled Farmers

- AgrAbility Helps Farmers and Ranchers with Physical Challenges
- Check it Out: The Oklahoma Equipment Connection
- NIFA State and Regional AgrAbility Program
- Farm Safety and Health Expertise Are Attributes of New Progressive Agriculture Foundation Board Members
- Helping Hands
- Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Assists Farmers & Ranchers
- Best Dog for the Job
- MU AgrAbility Project Grant Renewal to Help Disabled Farmers
- Trained Dogs Prove Helpful as Assistant Farmhands
- MU AgrAbility Project Grant Renewal to Help Disabled Farmers
- USDA Awards \$3.7 Million to Assist Farmers with Disabilities

Other News

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

- Injecting tiny polymer spheres into rats right after a spinal cord injury helped the animals recover movement and prevented secondary nerve damage that often follows such injuries, U.S. researchers said.
- The Liveability House: Exploring An Immersive Environment (Webinar scheduled for November 19)

Upcoming Events

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

Problems? Contact Clifford Racz, National AgrAbility Project, racz@purdue.edu

AgrAbility e-Note

November 2009

National Project

The National AgrAbility Project and Indiana AgrAbility, with financial support from NEC Foundation of America, sent an Assistive Technology for Rural Youth curriculum package to every FFA chapter in the U.S. Those who attended the Grand Rapids NTW received a copy of the package, which included (1) a leader's guide consisting of three lesson plans on assistive technology; (2) an updated copy of The Toolbox CD; (3) a classroom poster on assistive technology; (4) a cover letter; and (5) a postcard describing the HOSTA tractor safety training materials.

The leader's guide encourages FFA chapters to complete community service projects for people with disabilities in their communities. It also contains a list of the current AgrAbility Projects with their contact information. The NAP encourages the SRAPs to capitalize on this initiative by following up with the FFA chapters in their states. It is hoped that some of the FFA chapters will complete projects to serve AgrAbility customers.

AgrAbility was represented by the NAP and Indiana AgrAbility at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on October 21-23. The display included Purdue's accessible tractor, a grain bin safety exhibit, and information about AgrAbility and the Assistive Technology for Rural Youth Curriculum. Approximately 50,000 FFA members attended the convention, and many were exposed to the AgrAbility mission.

Submitted by: Paul Jones

AgrAbility e-Note

November 2009

California

California AgrAbility staff was invited to conduct the "Rehabilitating California's Farmers & Workers" Training Workshop for the California Dept. of Rehabilitation, Statewide Assistive Technology Advisory Council in October. About 25 advisors attended this training.

As a member of the California Small Farm Conference (CSFC) Executive Board, Cal AgrAbility is now recruiting small farmers and agriculture students to attend the 2010 training conference in San Diego. Each year CSFC awards scholarships to low-resource farmers. CalAgrAbility consumers have obtained scholarships in past years and are actively encouraged to attend. The 2010 CSFC, as in past years, will offer AgrAbility workshops, this year featuring Therese Willkomm as a trainer in San Diego.

California Arthritis Foundation represented CalAgrAbility at a central valley farm worker health event and disseminated information about both programs. In addition, Arthritis Foundation bilingual staff has started work on the user manual of the newly-developed, three-week Spanish self-help training.

For November, National Diabetes Awareness Month, CalAgrAbility is promoting partner hospitals' and clinics' events. Woodland Healthcare is offering free English and Spanish seminars addressing self management of the disease. Catholic Healthcare West Woodland Clinic offers seminars and bilingual materials on nutrition and other food choices.

Submitted by: Martha Stiles



WEBCAST
Documenting Disparities in Obesity and Disability
December 3, 2009, 2:00pm Central
[Registration is open now](#)

You are invited to a webcast hosted by the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR).

WHAT: *Documenting Disparities in Obesity and Disability*

WHEN: Thursday, December 3, 2009. 2:00 PM–3:30 PM (Central)

The **90-minute webcast** will begin at 3:00pm Eastern; 2:00pm Central; 1:00pm Mountain; 12:00pm Pacific; 11:00am Alaska; 9:00am Hawaii. The webcast is presented in collaboration with the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) program at Memorial Hermann|TIRR.

Webcast Registration (no fee to participate):

<http://survey.sedl.org/efm/wsb.dll/s/1q71>

ABOUT THE WEBCAST:

The NCDDR Community of Practice on Research Quality will host a webcast on December 3, 2009 for NIDRR grantees and other individuals interested in research on disparities in obesity rates and consequences experienced by people with disabilities. This webcast is the first of a two-part series on disparities research focusing on the disparities in obesity experienced by people with disabilities, potential consequences of those disparities, and efforts to include disability as a diversity and equity factor in federal and community health-promotion programs. Part 2 will focus on strategies for addressing these disparities and improving the quality and visibility of disparity and inequities research.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

James Rimmer, Ph.D., is Professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development, Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health and Department of Bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Professor in the in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. He is Director of two federally funded Centers, the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.ncpad.org) and the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Exercise Physiology and Recreational Technologies for Persons with Disabilities (funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, www.rectech.org).

Margaret L. Campbell, Ph.D., is a Senior Scientist for Planning and Policy Support with the



National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education. Her primary responsibilities involve serving as a program officer and providing scientific direction for strategic planning and priority development, particularly in the areas of aging with disability, technologies for successful aging, health disparities, and research capacity-building. Dr. Campbell also serves as a representative from the Department of Education to the: Federal Interagency Workgroup (FIW) for National Health Objectives related to Healthy People 2020, chaired by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Please [register here](#). There is no fee to attend. You may submit questions along with your registration. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to attend the online event. For those who cannot attend the live webcast, a recording and transcript will be archived on the NCDDR website. For more information, contact Brenda Lightfoot by email: brenda.lightfoot@sedl.org or call 800-266-1832.

We hope you will join us on Thursday, December 3, 2009!

This webcast is supported through the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR), funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), part of the U.S. Department of Education. It is supported in part by Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU). The opinions and views expressed are those of the presenters and no endorsement by the funding agency should be inferred.

NIDRR Project Number: H133A060028

To ask questions or comment, please e-mail: webcast@ncddr.org

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE
DISSEMINATION OF DISABILITY RESEARCH**

Advancing Research, Improving Education



November 2009

Indiana

Indiana has recently taken on a new adventure by partnering with a Indiana FFA member to serve as a youth ambassador for our program. Nellie Bell, daughter of BNG client and consultant Ed Bell, is doing her part to share the word about Breaking New Ground/AgrAbility to those youth who share her love for agriculture.

In September, Nellie began giving presentations to area high school agriculture departments and FFA chapters in her home district. Nellie spends about 20 minutes with each group doing hands-on presentations and talking about disability in agriculture. She discusses her personal story, then asks the students for volunteers to make a peanut butter sandwich with use of only their non-dominant hand, providing a real life example of how a disability can make even the easiest tasks more difficult. She also touches on the assistive technology curriculum and BNG recently sent every FFA chapter in the U.S., and she entertains a brainstorming session on projects students can do in their own community. She wraps up by discussing how those students can help make a difference in their local community through the BNG Bridging Horizons Contest.

She feels that sharing the Bridging Horizon's program will help educate high school students about the good they can do in their own communities. "It is a wonderful thing to see FFA members get excited about helping and serving others!"

Nellie talked about the goals she has for her presentations. "The goal that I wish to accomplish through my visits is to make the people that I visit with see things in a different way and to realize that they have the power of positive influence. By being aware that a person with a disability is simply someone who doesn't have the ability to do something, and recognizing our attitudes towards these people, we can change the way we think about things in the future."

Nellie hopes to begin statewide travel sharing the program. Nellie is also happy to team up with her father for a father/daughter presentation. If you think you have a presentation opportunity for Nellie, Ed or both, please contact her at nellienbell@yahoo.com

Submitted by: Kim Stockment

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A monthly update for AgrAbility Projects

 **AgrAbility e-Note**

November 2009

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility staff presented a segment on “How AgrAbility Networks With Other Providers to Assist Kansas Farmers” and assisted with case study presentations at a mediator’s training for Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services on October 16 in Manhattan, KS.

Submitted by: Kerri Ebert

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November 2009

Missouri

At the Bridging Science, Practice, and Culture to Improve Health in the U.S. Virgin Islands Willard Downs presented "Let's Talk About Arthritis" poster abstract during the 2nd Annual Health Disparities Institute. The purpose of Willard's poster abstract was to discuss the NIDRR-funded Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC) and USDA-funded Missouri AgrAbility Projects (MAP) curriculum and set of training materials to be used by promotores (lay health educators) in educating Hispanic migrant and seasonal farm workers about Arthritis. The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) which established the Caribbean Exploratory NCMHD Research Center for Excellence, University of the Virgin Islands, and Division of Nursing Education sponsored the conference to provide opportunities for a concerted focus on complex variables as well as the unique intersections of the island history, context, culture, demographics, socioeconomic status, and other factors that might contribute to health disparities within the islands.

Don Schuster, Assistive Technology Coordinator for the Missouri AgrAbility Project exhibited, facilitated, and disseminated disability, health, safety, and wellness information and resource materials during several events across the state. At the "Exploring Extension Program" during the Carrollton Fall Festival, participants learned about AgrAbility Project as well as services provided to assist Missouri farmers, ranchers, farm workers and their families with disabilities. The "disAbility Fair" sponsored by Access II ILC, in Gallatin, MO allowed participants to learn about the AgrAbility Project as well as services provided to assist Missouri farmers, ranchers, farm workers and their families with disabilities. Don estimated that the group in Gallatin, MO included about 125 and 150 participants that came through the AgrAbility displays, took part in a puppet show regarding youth with a disability, and the food and snacks provided.

Trisa Nickoley, ACE certified, health education and promotion graduate research assistant with the Missouri AgrAbility Project, Willard Downs, and Karen Funkenbusch continue to finalize their rural lifestyle farmer health and

disability survey. The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the health and disability concerns of rural lifestyle farmers and ways to improve their quality of life. Information from the rural lifestyle farmer health survey will be used to develop educational materials and health programs to better serve the needs of this intended audience.

Karen Funkenbusch presented information about the Missouri AgrAbility Project during the AARP Drive Safely Workshop. This workshop was designed to help seniors farmers cope with the driving challenges they face as they get older. Instructors from the American Association of Retired People (AARP) taught senior farmers how to compensate for changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time; what to do if confronted with an aggressive driver; how medications may affect driving, and more. Karen shared AgrAbility information and resource materials including local agencies contract information for the University of Missouri Extension Centers, Centers for Independent Living, Rehab Services for the Blind, Department of Health and Senior Services, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation that could be of assistance.

Karen Funkenbusch is assisting Evan Prost, PT, BSEd, GCS, Clinical Instructor and Research Assistant for the MU Department of Physical Therapy with his problem based course. Over the next four weeks, senior-level physical therapy students will be presented with farming with arthritis (Missouri AgrAbility Project) and gardening with arthritis (Gardens for Every Body) case studies to work on as a team.

Karen Funkenbusch and Trisa Nickoley were invited guest speakers for the MU PRT 3220 - Introduction to Recreation for People with Disabilities. Sixty junior, senior, and master students learned how Missouri farmers and ranchers with disabilities are "Keeping Life in a Good Healthy Balance" by USDA-funded programs. The National AgrAbility video was showed followed by information shared about Missouri that illustrates how Missouri farmers and ranchers continue to work despite their disabilities while Trisa shared information and resource materials about physical activities, fitness, and exercise programs that are important to farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

Russell Ramsey, "Volunteer" farmer with the Missouri AgrAbility Project disseminated AgrAbility information and resource materials to local agencies

in Southeast Missouri as well as well has been spending time visiting with his local farmers and ranchers to discuss services and assistance provided by the Missouri AgrAbility Project, Farm Service Agency, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Brad Marsh, consultant to the Missouri AgrAbility Project and Willard Downs are mentoring two student groups who are doing ASM Capstone Projects specific to the AgrAbility Project. Additional information and the specifics about the two ASM Capstone Projects will be provided in December.

Submitted by: Karen Funkenbusch

AgrAbility e-Note

November 2009

Minnesota

Minnesota AgrAbility Project (MAP)-Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota (G/ESM) awarded 20 mini-grants to farmers who had received MAP services but had not received funded Vocational Rehabilitation Services. By the end of September, over \$53,905 in mini-grants were awarded to farmers who responded to the G/ESM mini-grant application in June 2009. Farmers could request up to \$3,000 for items that would increase their safety, decrease their risk for secondary injury or improve their independence and overall ease of operation. The items funded included watering systems, speed hitches, specialized tractor seating, ag cameras, steps/staircases, cattle chutes and other equipment or tools. These one-time grants were from funds set aside by G/ESM to assist farmers with disabilities and other chronic health conditions and who did not have other financial resources.

Submitted by: Maureen Gaedy



November 2009

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project and Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services presented to participants at the National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Grand Rapids, Michigan October 5 – 8, 2009. Training on “How To Effectively Partner with State Departments of Rehabilitation Services for Enhanced Outcomes” was provided by Melinda Fruendt, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services Project Coordinator; Linda Jaco, Oklahoma AgrAbility Co-Director; and Sandra Stevenson, Oklahoma AgrAbility Program Manager.

Topics covered included benefits in partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation, successful steps in building a strong frame work for a Memorandum of Understanding, and how to achieve the coveted fee-for-service contract with the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Oklahoma AgrAbility was awarded a fee-for-service Milestone Contract with Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. Effective October 1, 2009, Oklahoma AgrAbility will receive payment for services provided to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers that receive services from either division (vocational rehabilitation or visual services) of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. Linda Jaco, Oklahoma AgrAbility Co-Director said, “The Milestone Contract is the product of many years of collaboration, communication and planning. This type of award is not handed out over night!”

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project is paid in two-part milestones that include on-farm site assessments and successful case closures.

The Oklahoma AgrAbility 2009 Fall Workshop “Rehabilitating Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers” was conducted on October 23-24, 2009 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Training was provided to physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, and occupational therapist assistants, disability navigators with the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Grant as well as vocational rehabilitation counselors, visual service trainers and assistive

technology practitioners and specialists with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation. There were 50 participants in attendance. The overwhelming response of the participants was that the course provided them with education and tools necessary for addressing the unique rehabilitation needs of agriculture workers.

Speakers at the workshop included Representative John Enns, Oklahoma House District 41; Millee Jorge, Dean of the School of Physical Therapy at Langston University; Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored Programs at the Seretean Wellness Center, Oklahoma State University; Randy Taylor, Associate Professor, OSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering; James Trapp, Associate Director Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service; Sandra Stevenson, Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Manager; and Dr. Michael O’Brien, Director of Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. The course was supported by OSU staff at the Willard Sparks Beef Research Center, the Agronomy Research Station, and faculty from the Langston University School of Physical Therapy.

The intensive two-day workshop provided training on AgrAbility, farm culture, farm environments and tasks, and assistive technology, funding and clinical case studies. To date, Oklahoma AgrAbility has provided farmer and rancher rehabilitation training to over 200 professionals through this workshop.

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project is following the footsteps of the National AgrAbility Project. We are seeing green! The Project now has a crisp, agricultural look. The Oklahoma AgrAbility website, www.agrability.okstate.edu, is up and running with a new look. We hope to provide clients, and others interested, with more resources and information that will meet their needs.

We want clients and others interested in the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project to be able to use, understand, and interact with the information contained within the site, with or without the use of assistive technology. Oklahoma ABLE Tech, one of the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project partners, is the organization responsible for training and technical assistance for the state of Oklahoma, under the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility law. Amanda Erichsen, Extension Assistant, completed Web Accessibility Training at the Information Technology Accessibility Conference May 27 and 28, in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma County Master Gardeners Presentation – Shianne Megel presented the benefits of gardening with the ergonomic tools to more than 150 Master Gardener’s in Oklahoma County. For more information about the Oklahoma

Master Gardener's please visit <http://mastergardener.okstate.edu/>.

"Fuel from the Field", Oklahoma Grown – Amanda Erichsen and Shianne Megel attended Oklahoma State University's biofuels field day to increase awareness of the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project. The field day was held on October 21st in Chickasha. For more information about the OSU Biobased Products and Energy Center please visit <http://www.bioenergycenter.okstate.edu/>.

Submitted by: Amanda Erichsen

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The logo for AgrAbility e-Note features a green square icon with a white stylized plant or leaf symbol to the left of the text "AgrAbility e-Note" in a green, sans-serif font.

November 2009

Vermont

The Vermont AgrAbility Project has started a new blog. For your reading pleasure, check out www.farmsafevt.wordpress.com. The first few posts are about George, Bill and Gail with a spattering of farm safety information. We have also added Emily Morehouse as a contributor.

They also have a facebook page: "farm safe vt." If you have a facebook page, look for them and request them as one of your friends.

Submitted by: Alexandra Jump

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November 2009

Wisconsin

Mike Hansen, a Wisconsin farmer who attended the National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Michigan last month, was the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award from Easter Seals Wisconsin on November 3. He is an organic beef producer and together with other farmers, markets organic meat products throughout Wisconsin. Mike has been a spokesperson for the AgrAbility of Wisconsin project at board meetings and other programs. He is leading an effort with Wisconsin farmers to provide all the meat needed free of charge to Camp Wawbeek, an Easter Seals Wisconsin camp for youth with disabilities. By providing the first animal, he is leading by example. About six animals are needed to meet the needs of Camp Wawbeek annually.

Submitted by: Ron Schuler



November 2009

West Virginia

Staff presented information at the State Rural Health Conference on WV AgrAbility and how the project involves community and healthcare professionals in identifying farm and rural families in need of services. This conference provided an opportunity for AgrAbility Staff to educate and reach healthcare providers and health educators.

WV AgrAbility Staff had the opportunity to promote awareness of farmers' needs at the WV Occupational Therapist Association Conference. AgrAbility was on display to further this profession's understanding of farmer work environments and occupational hazards.

AgrAbility and program information was shared at 'Women in Agriculture'; an event open to women involved in agriculture in the western counties of West Virginia. Staff also represented WV AgrAbility at the Agriculture Conservation Partnership Conference. This partnership brings together WVU Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency, State Department of Agriculture and other farm agencies and services to share updates, concerns and ideas regarding policies and practices.

Funding was secured and assistive technology devices were installed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services for a Christmas tree farmer. An 'ag cam', additional step and a heated cab were added to his tractor. The use of these additions provided by DRS not only will maximize this farmer's agriculture production but also allow the farmer to continue to maintain his production.

Submitted by: Mary Slabinski



November 2009

AgrAbility in the News

State and Regional AgrAbility Program Funding Available to Help Disabled Farmers

10/27/2009
Targeted News Service
Programs Mentioned: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
[Read Story](#)

AgrAbility helps farmers and ranchers with physical challenges

10/28/2009
Valley Courier
Programs Mentioned: Colorado AgrAbility, National Project, USDA
[Read Story](#)

Check it out: The Oklahoma Equipment Connection

10/23/2009
The Edmond Sun
Programs mentioned: Oklahoma AgrAbility
[Read Story](#)

NIFA State and Regional AgrAbility Program

11/5/2009
C-FARE Info
Programs Mentioned: USDA/ NIFA
[Read Story](#)

Farm Safety and Health Expertise Are Attributes of New Progressive Agriculture Foundation Board Members

11/10/2009
Midwest AGnet
Programs Mentioned: Del-MD AgrAbility

[Read Story](#)

Helping Hands

October 2009
Indiana Prairie Farmer
Programs mentioned: Breaking New Ground, NAP
[Read Story](#)

Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Assists Farmers & Ranchers

10/23/2009
Cattle Network
Programs Mentioned: Oklahoma AgrAbility
[Read Story](#)

Best Dog for the Job

October 2009
Missouri Ruralist, A Farm Progress Publication Midwest Group Edition
Programs mentioned: National AgrAbility, PHARM Dog, MERIL
[Read Story](#)

MU AgrAbility Project Grant Renewal to Help Disabled Farmers

August/September 2009
Ag Opportunities: Volume 20 No 8/9
Programs Mentioned: Missouri AgrAbility
[Read Story](#)

Trained dogs prove helpful as assistant farmhands

October 31, 2009
St Joe News.net
Programs mentioned: National Project, Missouri AgrAbility
[Read Story](#)

MU AgrAbility Project Grant Renewal to Help Disabled Farmers

Sept/Oct 2009
Independent Living
Programs Mentioned: Missouri AgrAbility, PHARM Dog, MERIL
[Read Story](#)

USDA Awards \$3.7 Million to Assist Farmers with Disabilities

October 3, 2009

Missouri Disability Attorneys.com

Programs Mentioned: NAP, Missouri AgrAbility

[Read Story](#)

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AgrAbility e-Note

October 2009

Other News

Scientists Devise Early Treatment for Spine Injury

Injecting tiny polymer spheres into rats right after a spinal cord injury helped the animals recover movement and prevented secondary nerve damage that often follows such injuries, U.S. researchers said on Sunday.

[Read story](#)

The Liveability House: Exploring An Immersive Environment

Have you ever wondered what Second Life is all about and what the possibilities might be for its use in Cooperative Extension? This session will introduce one collaborative project currently underway: the LiveAbility House. The LiveAbility House is a virtual home designed to teach people about assistive technology and universal design features that enable a person to live at home despite physical or mental challenges caused by aging, illness, or disability. The developers will share their vision, discuss their reasons for using Second Life, highlight the home's capabilities, and provide a tour of this interactive learning experience. Presenters include Deb Sellers and Larry Havenstein-Kansas State, Sarah Kirby-North Carolina State, and LuAnn Phillips-eExtension.

This session will be broadcast and use your computers speakers for audio, not your phone. Audience interaction will include opportunities to use built-in chat capabilities. Plan to join the session 5 minutes before the starting time. November 19 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/Learn>

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November 2009

Upcoming Events

* new addition this month

- Name *** Oklahoma Farm Bureau Conference
Dates November 6-7, 2009
City, State Oklahoma City, OK
Contact Info/web link http://www.okfarmbureau.org/index.php?action=articles.convention_09
- Name *** 19th Annual Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum
Dates November 18-21, 2009
City, State Isla Grand Beach Resort, Padre Island, Texas
Contact Info/web link National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH); <http://www.ncfh.org/>
- Name *** The Liveability House: Exploring an Immersive Environment
Dates November 19, 2009 2:00-3:00 PM EST
City, State Webinar
Contact Info/web link <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/Learn>
 Plan to join the session 5 minutes before the starting time. **November 19 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST**
- Name *** Documenting Disparities in Obesity and Disability (webcast)
Dates December 3, 2009
City, State webcast registration
Contact Info/web link [More \(PDF\)](#)
- Name** "The Way I see it: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's"
Dates December 5 , 2009
City, State Kirksville , MO
Contact Info/web link Donna
info@region2council.org
 660-785-2355

- Name** "Living with Visual Impairments and Other Challenges On Ranches and Farms"—this year's annual Winter Workshop series
Dates Multiple dates in Nov., Jan. and Feb.—see website for details
City, State 11 cities and towns around Colorado—see website for details
Contact Info/web link www.agrability.caahs.colostate.edu