



## February 2010

### National AgrAbility Project News

#### Reminders of upcoming events:

- AgrAbility All-Staff Call: Thursday, February 18 at 3:00 EST/2:00 CST/1:00 MST/12:00 PST
- AgrAbility Webinar on Hand Controls: Monday, February 22 at 3:00 EST/2:00 CST/1:00 MST/12:00 PST. Email [agrability@agrability.org](mailto:agrability@agrability.org) by February 17 to register. [More](#)

*AgrAbility Harvest* is coming! The NAP is scheduled to begin publishing a new semiannual newsletter in February. [More](#)

The NAP team has been busy spreading the word about AgrAbility at several national events. [More](#)

Remember to pre-order copies of the fotonovela on arthritis and agriculture, *¿Podrá ser la ARTRITIS lo que me causa DOLOR?* Each State and Regional AgrAbility Project (SRAP) will receive 100 free Fotonovelas, and we are hoping that each SRAP, as well as other organizations, will see the need to order additional copies. Please contact Amber Wolfe at [awolfe@arthritis.org](mailto:awolfe@arthritis.org) for ordering information.

### State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

#### California

The CalAgrAbility team recently completed the Spanish Arthritis and Farming fotonovela final edits with the assistance of review and pre-test volunteers in the Central Valley. [More](#)

Cal AgrAbility is finalizing the details for another successful CA Small Farm Conference to begin at the end of February. [More](#)

CalAgrAbility is also developing *Leader Trainings*, with partner the Arthritis Foundation, to train self-help teachers both in Spanish and English.

The Project is looking forward to busy winter and spring months, with fairs for veterans/

farmers, arthritis walks, rehabilitating farmers conferences, and migrant worker forums on the horizon.

#### Delaware/Maryland

Delaware/Maryland AgrAbility's recent activities include:

- Educating their Steering Committee on risk management principles
- Hosting exhibits at Delaware Ag Week and the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association Conference
- Pilot testing a Helping Hands Basket to raise funds for low-cost technologies for farmers with disabilities. This activity is supported by DMAP and FSA.

#### Indiana

Indiana recently hired a part-time student intern, who is actively involved in her local FFA chapter, to represent Breaking New Ground with high school Agriculture Education departments throughout the state. [More](#)

January & February have been busy months for the BNG staff, attending a variety of winter farm shows, including the Ft. Wayne Farm show that draws a large crowd year after year. [More](#)

BNG also recently held a day long training with Transition Resources Corporation to determine ways to better reach the seasonal/migrant farmworker population. [More](#)

#### Oklahoma

Oklahoma AgrAbility recently participated in several conferences and trade shows. [More](#)

#### Missouri

Don Schuster, Assistive Technology Coordinator, attended *The Way I See It, A Personal Look at Autism & Asperger's* presented during the Temple Grandin Autism Conference held in Kirksville, Missouri. [More](#)

Russell Ramsey, Volunteer and Farmer Liaison continues to provide direct AgrAbility outreach services and assistance to farmers and ranchers with disabilities living and working in the southeast region of Missouri. [More](#)

Russell Ramsey presented an AgrAbility program on "*Farming with Arthritis*" as well as information about the Missouri AgrAbility Program. [More](#)

"*Think Outside the Barn*" was the theme at the 2010 Missouri Governor's Conference on

Agriculture. [More](#)

On January 29th-30, Jackie Allenbrand worked at the Ag and Rural Lifestyle Show in St. Joseph, MO. [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch presented an AgrAbility *Gardens For Every Body Program* to members of the Kansas City Garden Club. [More](#)

In a *Jeopardy* style format, Karen Funkenbusch presented to one hundred students from Raytown, Missouri. [More](#)

## Vermont

Check out the latest post on the Vermont AgrAbility Project Farm Safe blog: <http://farmsafevt.wordpress.com/>

## Wyoming

*Keeping Ranchers and Farmers Safe From Injury Leading to Disability* was the topic of a training presented by Randy Weigel, Wyoming AgrAbility Project Director, to County Extension Service staff, health care professionals, individuals with disabilities and their families.

## Staff Changes

### California

Anna Marie Hill is the new Bilingual Community Outreach Representative. She joined CalAgrAbility in December 2009 and is eagerly learning about the specific needs of farmers and farm workers with disabilities in California. [More](#)

## AgrAbility in the News

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

- Workshops help agricultural operators with disabilities
- Dairy producers realize dreams can come true with hard work and help
- Program helps aging or injured producers get 'back in the saddle'
- New program gives four-legged friend to farmers with disabilities
- MU AgrAbility Project grant renewal to help disabled farmers

## Other News

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

- What is FARM-HAT?
- Minority Farmer Resource Guide Available
- Marshfield Clinic hosts Agrisafe Agricultural Medicine Core Course

## 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)



**February 2010**

## **National Project**

The NAP is scheduled to begin publishing a new, national newsletter, *AgrAbility Harvest*, in February. The purpose of this semiannual publication is to highlight the activities and impacts of AgrAbility. Through *AgrAbility Harvest*, we will share success stories, tell you about available resources, announce and/or report on special events, discuss current and emerging assistive technologies, and cover various other topics we think would be of interest to you. *AgrAbility Harvest* will target not only AgrAbility staff members, but also agricultural producers, rehabilitation specialists, agriculture professionals, legislators, and anyone else with an interest in the agriculture and disability arena.

*AgrAbility Harvest* will be produced in both electronic and print formats, and all SRAPs will receive a quantity for distribution to customers and other stakeholders.

Submitted by: Paul Jones

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The NAP team has been busy spreading the word about AgrAbility. Dr. Bill Field represented our program at the first-ever Ag Connect show in Orlando Florida. This show was geared toward the larger farmers across the nation and was intended to draw an international crowd. Several leading suppliers were at the show, as well as companies from around the world. Next year, the show will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Field also represented AgrAbility at another first-ever event, the *Be Safe, Be Profitable: Protecting Workers in Agriculture* conference, January 27-28 in Fort Worth, Texas. This event, sponsored by the newly formed Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, brought together farm organization/ agricultural industry leaders, risk managers, producers, and researchers.

In addition to these new events, the NAP participated in the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville. Despite the snow storms that swept the area in the days prior to the show, the crowds were out in full force and NAP Staff and consultants were able to successfully share the message and meet

directly with potential customers. This show is always of value to the NAP staff, both for the contacts and potential clients we meet, in addition to partnering with area states to make an impact on the agricultural industry.

Submitted by: Kim Stockment

## Hand Controls for Agricultural Users

**February 22, 2010**

**3:00 p.m. EST; 2:00 p.m. CST; 1:00 p.m. MST; 12:00 p.m. PST**

A frequent equipment adaptation provided to assist agricultural workers with lower-limb disabilities is the modification of foot operated controls to be controllable by hand. Given the wide range of user needs and equipment types, there are many different designs for such modifications. While a valuable tool, hand controls also have potential health risks, not only for the primary user, potentially increasing the extent of their impairment, but also for causing injuries to secondary users of modified equipment.

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

- The need for adaptive hand controls
- Design options for adaptive hand controls
- Adaptive hand controls - hazards and risks
- Ergonomic design considerations for adaptive hand controls
- Usage considerations for adaptive hand controls
- Hazard and risk assessments for adaptive hand controls

### Our Presenter:

Robert W. Stuthridge is the National AgrAbility Project's Ergonomist and has worked in rehabilitation ergonomics since 1995. He has presented numerous seminars on disability discrimination and inclusive design both in the UK and USA, including several at Purdue University. He is currently working toward his Ph.D., which considers usability risks associated with agricultural workplace

assistive technology.

A question & answer period will follow the presentation.

To participate in this free webinar, email [agrability@agrability.org](mailto:agrability@agrability.org) by February 17 and simply put the word "Webinar" in the subject line. Instructions for accessing the session will be sent to registrants by February 19. Feel free to pass on this invitation to others you believe may be interested. Contact AgrAbility at 800-825-4264 if you have questions.

## AgrAbility e-Note

**February 2010**

### California

The CalAgrAbility team recently completed the Spanish Arthritis and Farming fotonovela final corrections with the assistance of review and pre-test volunteers in the Central Valley. The External Volunteer Team consists of farm workers, Mexican consulate staff, immigration specialists, and health workers. From the beginning (over a year ago), they have been crucial in testing the novella for language and image appropriateness/acceptability. BNG is forwarding this final edited version to the developer.

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Cal AgrAbility is finalizing the details for another successful CA Small Farm Conference to begin at the end of February. This event is actively promoted to our consumers as a great learning exercise for beginning and seasoned farmers.

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Anna Marie Hill is the new Bilingual Community Outreach Representative. She joined CalAgrAbility in December 2009 and is eagerly learning about the specific needs of farmers and farm workers with disabilities in California. Originally from the Sacramento area, Anna has an interest in health and legal advocacy for underserved populations. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2007 with majors in Spanish and Legal Studies, and began working with low-income families in the Head Start Program in Oakland, CA as a bilingual family advocate. Anna then spent a year working with young adults with disabilities in Guatemala. Her ultimate goal is to obtain a law degree specializing in legal health advocacy for rural populations utilizing her bilingual English/Spanish and AgrAbility skills to serve farmers and migrant farmworkers.

Submitted by: Martha Stiles

## AgrAbility e-Note

**February 2010**

### Indiana

Indiana recently hired a part time student intern, who is actively involved in her local FFA chapter, to represent the Breaking New Ground Resource Center to fellow Agriculture Education departments throughout the state. Nellie Bell, daughter of Indiana AgrAbility client/consultant Ed Bell, has visited more than 10 schools and has spoken to more than 200 students. Nellie promotes the Bridging Horizon's contest and is using the NEC Curriculum as part of her presentation. Nellie is making a huge impact statewide and helping share the word about BNG!



January & February have been busy months for the BNG staff, attending a variety of winter farm shows, including the Ft. Wayne Farm show that draws a large crowd year after year. The League for the Blind and Disabled, one of IN subcontractors, helped to staff the booth and did a great job interacting with the shows visitors. In addition, BNG staff attended the Indiana Horticulture Congress hosted by Purdue University, as well as the Indiana Rural Health Council's Public Policy Forum. It may be snowing outside, but we're still hitting the pavement full speed ahead!



BNG also recently held a day long training with Transition Resources Corporation to determine ways to better reach the seasonal/migrant farmworker population. The day included sharing of staff roles, brainstorming ways to better meet the migrant worker population in Indiana, as well as a conference call with Martha Stiles of California AgrAbility. The day ended with a tour of Life Essentials given by Hubert Von Holten and Kathy Smith.

Submitted by: Kim Stockment



**February 2010**

**Missouri**

Don Schuster, Assistive Technology Coordinator, attended the "Way I See It, A Personal Look at Autism & Asperger's" presented during the Temple Grandin Autism Conference held in Kirksville, Missouri. Topics covered included *About Autism, How a Person with Autism Thinks, Effective Communication, and Language Barriers*. The Temple Grandin Autism Conference was sponsored by the Region II Council for Developmental Disabilities and Truman State University, Department of Speech and Hearing., with special thanks to the Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board.

Russell Ramsey, Volunteer and Farmer Liaison continues to provide direct AgrAbility outreach services and assistance to farmers and ranchers with disabilities living and working in the southeast region of Missouri. He also continues to disseminate resource materials and programmatic information to social service agencies, agricultural organizations, and others in the southeast region interested in providing AgrAbility services.

Russell Ramsey presented an AgrAbility program on "Farming with Arthritis" as well as information about the Missouri AgrAbility Program. He also staffed the AgrAbility at the Poplar Bluff Ag Expo. The event, organized by the Butler County MU Extension Council and the Three Rivers Community College Ag Club, attracted some 10,000 area residents, who were treated to educational seminars, exhibits, contests, and entertainment.

"Think Outside the Barn" was the theme at the 2010 Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture. The January 7-9, 2010 agriculture event was one of the most interesting and exciting events in recent history. Governor Jay Nixon joined Missouri farmers and industry leaders in a critically important dialogue on the future of agriculture in Missouri and across the U.S. The University of Missouri Extension showcased several USDA funded programs, including the Missouri AgrAbility Program.

On January 29th-30, Jackie Allenbrand worked at the Ag and Rural Lifestyle Show in St. Joseph, MO. The AgrAbility and PHARM Dog booth was shared with the Buchanan County Extension.

Karen Funkenbusch presented an AgrAbility *Gardens For Every Body Program* to members of the Kansas City Garden Club. Garden Club members first learned about AgrAbility services and assistance for farmers and ranchers with disabilities followed by how to "Prevent Injuries Through the Use of Smart Tools." This was an interactive, hands-on demonstration of how to select and use smart tools. Participants learned how to recognize ways to maximize productivity by decreasing injuries, how to identify risk factors, and how to access reliable resource materials.

In a Jeopardy style format, Karen Funkenbusch presented to one hundred students from Raytown, Missouri. In this fun, interactive, and game show format, high school learned about Missouri agriculture, disability awareness, and the AgrAbility Program.

Submitted by: Karen Funkenbusch



**February 2010**

**Oklahoma**

**Oklahoma AgrAbility recently participated in several conferences and trade shows.**

KNID Agrifest, Enid Oklahoma – Amanda Erichsen and Shianne Megel represented AgrAbility at the regional farm show January 8 and 9 to increase awareness of the AgrAbility project. The show was attended by approximately 60,000 people.

Horticulture Industries Show, Tulsa Oklahoma – Amanda Erichsen and Shianne Megel attended the regional horticulture show January 8 and 9 to increase awareness of the AgrAbility project. The theme for the show, attended by horticulturalists from Arkansas and Oklahoma, was “Local Growers – Local Corporation.” Bi-annual Oklahoma Extension Conference – AgrAbility marketing materials were given to over 300 extension educators, staff and faculty. The information will help the educators better understand the AgrAbility project and share news about AgrAbility with their constituents.

Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference and Trade Show – Oklahoma AgrAbility was represented at the Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference and Trade Show January 26, 2010 in McAlester, Okla.

Submitted by: Amanda Erichsen



**February 2010**

**AgrAbility in the News**

**Workshops help agricultural operators with disabilities**

1/19/10  
The Fort Morgan Times, Fort Morgan, CO  
Programs Mentioned: Colorado AgrAbility, Easter Seals  
[Read Story](#)

**Dairy producers realize dreams can come true with hard work and help**

1/24/10  
Farm and Dairy  
Programs Mentioned: AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, Easter Seals Central PA, PA. Assistive Technology Foundation  
[Read Story](#)

**Program helps aging or injured producers get 'back in the saddle'**

2/11/10  
North Texas e-News  
Programs Mentioned: Texas AgrAbility  
[Read Story](#)

**New program gives four-legged friend to farmers with disabilities**

1/28/10  
Missouri Farmer Today  
Programs mentioned: PHARM Dog, Missouri AgrAbility Project  
[Read Story](#)

**MU AgrAbility Project grant renewal to help disabled farmers**

Freshare.net  
Programs mentioned: Missouri AgrAbility Project  
[Read Story](#)



**February 2010**

**Other News**

**What is FARM-HAT?**

The Farm/Agriculture/Rural Management – Hazard Analysis Tool (FARM-HAT) is a simple method of providing first-hand information about hazards; a process for evaluating hazards; and recommendations on correcting hazards.  
[Read Story](#)

**Minority Farmer Resource Guide Available**

*Resources and Services for Minority Farmers and Ranchers* is a guide to programs, loans, grants and information to increase the stability of farms operated by minority farmers developed by the University of Missouri Extension.

[Read Story](#)

**Marshfield Clinic hosts Agrisafe Agricultural Medicine Core Course**

This AgriSafe Training course is the first in Wisconsin to offer a core curriculum in agricultural medicine, health, and safety. It is designed to train rural health care providers for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of agricultural occupational illnesses and injuries. The AgriSafe certification allows health professionals to join AgriSafe as a Provider Member, receive the clinical resources, technical assistance, continuing education and use the trademarked name AgriSafe in promoting agricultural health services.

[Read More](#)

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**February 2010**

**Upcoming Events**

**\* new addition this month**

**Name \*** Ag Business Specialist Training  
**Dates** February 18, 2010  
**City, State** Ag Engineering (223 Ag Engin Bldg), Columbia, Missouri  
**Contact** University of Missouri Extension  
**Info/web link**

**Name \*** 2010 Western Farm Show  
**Dates** February 19-21, 2010  
**City, State** Kansas City, MO  
**Contact** <http://www.westernfarmshow.com/>; For information call 800-762-5616 or email  
**Info/web link** [tbritt@swassn.com](mailto:tbritt@swassn.com)

**Name** Musculoskeletal Injuries  
**Dates** February 25, 2010 12-1PM CT  
**City, State** Webinar: session link  
<http://uiowa.na5.acrobat.com/sfraser>  
**Contact** <http://www.agrisafe.org/training/webinars/>  
**Info/web link**

**Name \*** The Southern Cotton Ginners Association Mid-South Cotton Show

**Dates** February 26-27, 2010

**City, State** Memphis Cook Convention Center, Memphis, Tennessee

**Contact** <http://www.southerncottonginners.org/content/view/15/9/>; For additional  
**Info/web link** information, contact Price at 901-947-3104 or visit the website: [www.farmandginshow.com](http://www.farmandginshow.com)

**Name\*** Wisconsin Agrisafe Training--Agricultural Medicine: The Core Course

**Dates** March 18-20, 2010

**City, State** Marshfield, WI



**Contact  
Info/web  
link** More info: [PDF](#)  
Contact: Aaron Kline [aaron-kline@uiowa.edu](mailto:aaron-kline@uiowa.edu)

**Name\*** RESNA 2010 and the international Symposium on the  
Quality of Life Technology  
**Dates** June 26-30, 2010  
**City, State** Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Contact  
Info/web  
link** <http://www.resna.org/conference/index.php>