

NEWS RELEASE

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Arthritis and agriculture conference to be held in Lafayette

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – People interested in learning about the causes, prevention and treatment of arthritis in rural populations have the opportunity to attend the Arthritis, Agriculture and Rural Life Conference May 11-13 at Purdue University.

The conference at the Beck Agricultural Center will feature keynote speakers, workshops and networking opportunities. Topics will include gardening with arthritis, rural women with rheumatoid arthritis, prevention in farm youth, health education, ergonomic workshops and solutions for enhancing the quality of life for arthritis sufferers.

The event also will include an onsite session at the Purdue Animal Sciences Research and Education Center. Participants will visit dairy, swine, grain storage, machinery and other facilities, where they can see firsthand the daily stresses that affect individuals with arthritis in the rural workplace.

Extension educators, occupational and physical therapists, nurse practitioners, ergonomists, members of state departments of health, farm business representatives and others are encouraged to attend.

"The AARL Conference is a new opportunity for rural professionals," said Amber Wolfe, AgrAbility project coordinator at the Arthritis Foundation. "The conference will assist participants in becoming more aware of evidence-based strategies to aid farmers, ranchers and other rural residents battling the many forms of arthritis."

Registration fee of \$165 includes meals, reference material and tours. A discount rate will be offered to students. Registration information is available at <http://www.arthritis-ag.org/arthritis-conference/arthritis-conference.aspx>

Hotel accommodations will be available at the University Plaza Hotel at a rate of \$99 per room per night. Daily transportation will be provided from the hotel to Beck Center.

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The conference is sponsored by the USDA National AgrAbility project, the Indiana chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and Purdue's Breaking New Ground Resource Center. More information on the conference is available at www.arthritis-ag.org

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