

AgrAbility Day at the Capitol scheduled

By Stacy Bauter

STILLWATER, Okla. –AgrAbility Day at the Capitol is slated March 28, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to increase state legislators’ awareness of agricultural producers who have disabilities and to highlight the importance of the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project.

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project strives each year to increase the awareness about and meet the needs of Oklahoma agricultural producers with disabilities and their families.

Linda Jaco, Oklahoma AgrAbility co-director, said Oklahoma AgrAbility clients will have the opportunity to explain to state legislators the impact of Oklahoma AgrAbility on their lives and its importance to the futures of other producers with disabilities.

“Our general purpose for AgrAbility Day at the Capitol is to educate legislators, recognize a partner of Oklahoma AgrAbility, and let legislators get a better sense of who we are,” Jaco said. “We hope this will show the need for state support to provide additional services to our rural clients.”

In 2007, the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Act became law. The act created providing Oklahoma farmers/ranchers with disabilities access to the education, assistance and support they need to help them be more independent with their agricultural operations but did not provide funding for the state Oklahoma AgrAbility Project.

Starting at 1 pm exhibits and demonstrations showcasing the services and accomplishments of Oklahoma AgrAbility will be located on the fourth floor Rotunda of the Capitol building along with exhibits of larger equipment outside on the South lawn of the Capitol.

For additional information about participating, call 888-885-5588 (voice/tty), 405-744-2398 or e-mail ability@okstate.edu.

The Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT), Oklahoma ABLE Tech and Langston University School of Physical Therapy have

partnered to provide AgrAbility services to nearly 300 families, train nearly 400 health care professionals and reach more than 860,000 people through outreach programs since 2002.

Oklahoma AgrAbility is one of 25 state AgrAbility projects funded through U.S. Department of Agriculture grants and assisted by the National AgrAbility Project, which was created in the 1990 Farm Bill.

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