Michigan AgrAbility is a joint project of Easter Seals Michigan, Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau. Funding provided by USDA. The projects supported by the AgrAbility Competitive Program of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), grant number 2014-41590-22327. MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ray Hammerschmidt, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. Easter Seals Michigan (ES MI) voluntarily complies with the applicable provisions of Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. ES MI has a separately established Board Audit Committee to oversee the integrity of our annual independent audit. This committee operates separately from the Finance Committee of the Board. To receive a copy of the annual audit, Audit Committee member qualifications, or our Form 990, please submit a written request to the CEO at 2387 E. Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326. The Board of Directors review and approve Board and Staff Code of Ethics policies annually and they are also available by written request.

What is AgrAbility

Farming isn’t just an occupation. It’s part of who you are. If a farmer is injured or ill, the farm and the family’s livelihood can be seriously disrupted. Michigan AgrAbility can help farmers adjust to disabling conditions so they can keep working and the farm can keep producing. We help farmers identify ways they can continue farming by making modifications to equipment, facilities and daily tasks. Farm family members are eligible for services, too.

Michigan AgrAbility is a joint partnership between Easter Seals Michigan and Michigan State University Extension. Funding is provided by a USDA grant and donations from supporting partners.

Michigan AgrAbility serves people with many types of disabilities, including:

- spinal cord injury
- chronic back pain
- arthritis
- stroke
- respiratory impairment
- joint injury
- amputation
- visual impairment
- hearing impairment
- head injury
- disability due to aging or illness

Providing services to farmers with INJURIES & ILLNESSES so they can continue the OCCUPATION & LIFESTYLE they love.

Michigan AgrAbility

4065 Saladin Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

800-956-4106
(For Hearing Impaired contact Michigan Relay at 800-649-3777)

www.michiganagrability.org
www.essmichigan.org
www.msue.anr.msu.edu

Crowding tub for cattle handling

“Of course I can work!” — TOM KOLASA

1-800-956-4106
www.michiganagrability.org

Crowding tub for cattle handling

“Of course I can work!” — TOM KOLASA

Of course I can work!” — TOM KOLASA

Michigan AgrAbility

Cultivating success, one farmer at a time

“I’m amazed how much the crowding tub has helped us manage our livestock. We are so thankful for the help AgrAbility has given us.”

— DEIDRA MATTHEWS
Spouse of AgrAbility client Mark Matthews, Iraq War Veteran

Crowding tub for cattle handling

Extra tractor steps

Of course I can work!” — TOM KOLASA

Michigan AgrAbility

Cultivating success, one farmer at a time
The Need
There are 52,194 farms in Michigan that employ approximately 215,000 workers including owner/operators, hired labor and family members. (Source: USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture)

There is an average of nine injuries for every 1000 adult farmworkers. (Source: NASS May 2013)

Common diseases such as arthritis, cancer, stroke, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy are just some of the personal health issues that may leave an individual in a compromised state of physical activity and often result in secondary injury.

Our Services
Disability can change a lifestyle in the blink of an eye. From independence to dependence, an active lifestyle to one of uncertainty, there are many adjustments to be made personally and within the family. In addition to the emotional and physical challenges of adapting, there are financial challenges in adjusting the farm operation to fit a new normal.

Our Method
An agricultural engineer visits the farm to learn the operation, what equipment is being used and what physical limitations hinder the farm work.

After the visit, a summary report is provided to the farmer regarding farm tasks, barriers observed and relevant solutions.

The engineer works with the farmer to research solutions and develop new ideas for overcoming those barriers.

As needed, Michigan AgrAbility staff helps the farmer through the process of acquiring funding to purchase the needed technology.

Our staff assists in the set-up and training of how to use adaptive equipment, and then follows up several months later to ensure everything is operating as intended and helping the farmer.

1,900 FARM WORKERS in Michigan could benefit from our services annually.

Michigan AgrAbility offers ASSISTANCE & SOLUTIONS that make a difference.

Our services are offered at NO COST TO THE FARMER.

You can help, too! Donate at: www.michiganagrability.org

Michigan State University | Extension
Michigan Farm Bureau
Alpha Gamma Rho
The Andersons
MRS Promoting Abilities
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Easterseals
MIPES