



AgrAbility Partners With NRCS

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The local National conservation Service (NRCS), the West Greeley Conservation District and the Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) have partnered to develop an exciting new funding stream for agricultural producers with functional limitations. The West Greeley Conservation District and the NRCS office along with CAP are partners in a three year grant program that offers a funding stream set-aside for those farmers that struggle with limitations such as chronic back pain, MS, diabetes, amputation, arthritis, stroke., hearing loss, Spinal cord Injury, PTSD, and many other conditions.

Through this new program they can receive both financial and technical assistance in order

to implement on-farm conservation practices that affect crop quality, inefficient use of irrigation water, inadequate forage, and other range management issues.

Examples of best practices might include implementation of cover crops, reduced tillage in crop rotations, improved irrigation and sprinkler installation, or cross-fencing.

This program is only available in three Colorado counties at this time but is expected to expand.

While the 2017 applications are now closed, further applications for these and other programs in Weld, Morgan, or Logan counties for cost-share assistance are accepted on a continuing basis.



Typical small Western Colorado farm

AgrAbility is a national effort funded by a grant from the USDA/NIFA to a partnership between our Land Grant College, CSU, and Goodwill Industries Denver. AgrAbility offers assistance through on-farm assessments of the functional limitation needs of producers. The program then offers technical advise on assistive technology and helps farmers source and fund them. The NRCS provides financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices on their farms. For information call 970-356-8097 or 720-539-4435.

DMVA Grant Awarded to AgrAbility



The Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, under the new leadership of Maj. General Michael A. Loh (left), Has awarded a Veterans Assistance Grant to the Colorado AgrAbility Project for a third year.

The Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs goal is to provide day-to-day command and control, guidance, poli-

ties and administrative and logistics support to the division of the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and Divisions of Veterans Affairs.

Through the use of the Veterans Trust Fund Grant and the Veterans Assistance Grant, the Department extends its outreach to Colorado veterans in need. This grant will enable AgrAbility

to purchase Assistive Technology farming equipment that will enable a veteran farmer to have much needed access to such equipment to remain on their farm or ranch.

Our thanks go out to the DMVA for this important funding. AgrAbility can be reached at 720-737-3686 or 720-539-4435

Disabled American Veterans Funds Peer Support

AgrAbility provides workshops to disabled Veterans to enhance peer support networks

Since 1920, the Disabled American Veterans has been dedicated to a single purpose—empowering veterans with disabilities to live a high quality life with respect and dignity.

DAV Extends it's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters. They also further assist veterans with one of the hardest tasks of all—transitioning back into civilian life after devastating injury.

Through the Charitable Service Trust, The DAV ensures

that charitable initiatives around the country have the resources they need to benefit our nation's heroes.

In an effort to provide support that is direct and closely related to a well-established veterans' program, the Trust frequently awards grants to promote food, shelter, and other necessary items to homeless or at-risk veterans; mobility items for veterans that have experienced vision loss, hearing loss, or amputations; therapeutic or recreational activities for those with physical and/or psychological limitations; and education or training for veterans seeking career-readiness and skill development.

Now with this award to the Colorado AgrAbility Project, DAV offers a new program. The partnership between DAV and CAP extends DAV's reach into the rural farm communities of Colorado.

CAP is providing peer support workshops to establish local groups of disabled veteran agricultural producers as a point of contact for others in their region. Limited funding for assistive technology on the farm is also available. To find a workshop in your area call 720-737-3686 or 720-539-4435

Generational farmer continues his life's work despite Spinal Cord Injury

By Jessica Hudgins Smith

DENVER, Colo. – 55 year-old Jerry Michel is from Atwood, Colorado. He got help from the [AgrAbility](#) program many years ago and just recently contacted us again to request more assistance.

Jerry was injured in a car crash in the 80's and is paralyzed from the waist down. A third-generation farmer, he's been able to continue running his farm post-injury with support from the AgrAbility program, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and his family and friends.

After spending years in a wheelchair, Jerry is now experiencing difficulties with his shoulders as the shoulders aren't designed to replace the work of your legs. The good news is, we were able to install a gullwing lift on his truck and have a standing all-terrain trackchair on order! These additional supportive devices will take the burden off Jerry's shoulders, and will ensure he is able to continue working in agricultural.



[Click here](#) to Watch Jerry Michel's testimonial.

HOW TO REFER A FARMER/RANCHER TO AGRABILITY

Colorado farmers and ranchers are able to continue working, despite a long term illness, permanent injury, aging or a change in condition, thanks to the Colorado AgrAbility program—a unique partnership between Goodwill, Colorado State University Extension Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The collaboration promotes independence in agriculture by providing direct assistance, information and education to those dealing with functional limitations. If you or someone you know is challenged with a functional limitation of any nature, and that limitation creates a barrier to accomplishing a work task in the farm, give Candy Leathers a call at 720-539-4435. See also our website at <http://agrability.agsci.colostate.edu>.

Colorado AgrAbility

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The Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) operates on a grant funded by the USDA/NIFA through a partnership between Colorado State University, Goodwill Industries Denver, and AgrAbility. The vision of AgrAbility is to **enhance quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities**. While the term "disability" often brings to mind conditions such as spinal cord injuries and amputations, AgrAbility addresses not only these but also many other conditions, such as arthritis, back impairments, and behavioral health issues

Soon Showing in your Area! AgrAbility Winter Work Shops



Workshop in Progress

This year, our workshops will have a new focus:

In addition to a brief look at what AgrAbility is and what we do, for 2017-18 our focus is on money. Dr. Norm Dalsted will be offering strategies to assist the rancher to work well and effectively with Ag lenders and bankers. Then the AgrAbility staff will help you save time and money with ideas to work around the limitations imposed by age, arthritis, decreased endurance, and hearing loss.

So be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**

Tentative Schedule

February 6– Craig

7– Delta

8– Cortez

February 12– Greeley

13– Fort Morgan

14– Pueblo

The specific locations and times will be provided in a later publication. We also offer other workshops so be alert to our next newsletter. These educational events are for individuals who are dealing with barriers created by illness, conditions, or other limitations that make life on the farm more challenging.

SPINAL CORD/ NEUROMUSCULAR
DISEASE

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU
KNOW HAVE AN SCI OR NMD ?

If so, stay connected for a new project made possible by a grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation. This fall, AgrAbility will be offering workshops across Colorado to facilitate area support groups to enhance understanding and connect resources for those who have an Spinal Cord Injury or Neuromuscular Disease and their families. Dates and locations will be published soon. Call 720-539-4435