**Michigan AgrAbility Announces Demonstration Farm**

(HOLLAND, Mich.) Michigan AgrAbility has partnered with Holland area farmer, Doug Ver Hoeven, in establishing a demonstration farm where farmers can see and try a variety of assistive technology tools and equipment before investing in aides that can sometimes carry a hefty price tag.

 Ver Hoeven has been farming from a wheelchair for over forty years as a result of a vehicle accident while in high school. An AgrAbility client and member of the organization’s farmer advisory panel, Ver Hoeven has a wealth of experience and useful information to help farmers select pre-made items or engineer custom assistive technology tools suited for individual needs. Through years of farming, he has accumulated tools, ideas and methods that have helped preserve his working limbs and allowed him to operate his family farm.

 He also founded and operates a non-profit, Fulfilling Life Ministries, with the purpose of helping people with disabilities share his passion for the outdoors by helping them find opportunities to learn and enjoy hunting and fishing sports.

 Ned Stoller, Assistive Technology Professional and Michigan AgrAbility’s ag engineer has had the dream of a demo farm for many years and sees the value of a “try it before you buy it” opportunity for the farming community.

 Included in the demonstration items are lifts, ramps, outdoor mobility vehicles, hitch attachments and simple overhead door handling equipment. Smaller items such as pruners, anti-vibration gloves and easy attachments for hydraulic hoses are just a few of the items incorporated into the project.

 The farm is open for individuals or groups by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, contact Michigan AgrAbility at 800-956-4106.

For additional information, contact Bev Berens, (616-886-1909) or bberens@essmichigan.org