

AgrAbility e·Note

September 2019

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

Join the AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting on Monday, September 23 at 3:00 p.m. ET/2:00 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. MT/12:00 p.m. PT/11:00 a.m. AKT. Look for details in your email soon.

The AgrAbility National Training Workshop will take place in Madison, WI, March 23rd - 26th, 2020.

- The Request for Presentations and Posters has been sent out. You can access them by clicking here: [Call for Presentation Form](#); [Call for Poster Form](#). Please feel free to forward this link to anyone that you would like to have present at the NTW.
- Contact JoBeth or Tess any time at: JoBeth Rath - jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org 585.402.2059 and Tess McKeel - tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.447.9015



Don't forget to register for the Regional Workshop in State College, PA October 8-9. This workshop will focus on occupational therapy and assistive technology on the farm - working together to keep farmers farming! The agenda and registration for the workshop can be viewed [HERE](#).

Registration for the Regional Workshop in Davis, CA, for December 3-4 will be open soon. The workshop will be at the Mondavi Sensory Theatre and hotel rooms are blocked at the Hyatt UC Davis. Hotel room reservations can be made [HERE](#).

Davon Goodwin, a farmer veteran and North Carolina AgrAbility client, has agreed to serve as the client representative to the NAP Advisory Team for 2019-20. Thank you to those SRAPs that suggested potential team members.



The National AgrAbility Project was one of many exhibitors at the 2019 Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Illinois. The NAP exhibited jointly with Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited in the Health and Safety Tent, which was coordinated by Kelly Gagnon from Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited. [More](#)

The AgrAbility VR working group has continued to meet in an effort to bolster VR services to AgrAbility clients under the provisions of WIOA. Input was provided during the most recent call by Karri Wilson of Missouri VR.

The AgrAbility webinar "UAVs: What are Drones and How are They Used in Agriculture?" has been archived at <http://www.agrability.org/online-training/archived/>.

Toolbox Spotlight

An alternative to the common Langstroth beehive, the [Drebbieville AZ Hive with Slide-Out Frames](#) eliminates having to lift heavy, bulky boxes and honey-filled frames. With the AZ hive, the frames are accessed (i.e., pulled out) from the rear like a dollhouse or cabinet. The window latches and rear door are reversible.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska



Fairs, Fairs, Fairs! It was fair time in Alaska, as in many other states. AgrAbility staff attended several fairs around the state in Fairbanks, Ninilchik, Palmer, and Kodiak this year, talking to farmers, ranchers, fishers, and the general public about AgrAbility resources and assessment opportunities. [More](#)

DeShana is working together with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to gather information and resource contacts to begin work on starting an FVC state chapter. A group of veteran farmers have shown interest and discussions are taking place.

California

California AgrAbility and a coalition of agencies in Yolo County held the first "Encuentro de Promotores," an event that brought together 20 community leaders from rural Yolo County. [More](#)



California AgrAbility staff attended a presentation by Amjad Ramahi, Ph. D. candidate in the ergonomics lab, on the effectiveness of treatment in ligament injuries. He discovered that NSAIDS (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) will mitigate pain; however, they may slow down the recovery process. [More](#)

California AgrAbility conducted outreach at the Durst Organics Farm Health Fair to migrant and seasonal farmworkers employed by the farm. Participants were able to receive free vital exams to check their cholesterol, blood sugar content, and other tests, to determine their health base line. [More](#)



Colorado



August has been a fun month for the Colorado AgrAbility Project. CAP's partner organization, Goodwill Industries of Denver, held its annual golf tournament fundraiser. Personnel were asked to attend and staff a hole so that AgrAbility could receive some attention from stakeholders that staff normally do not interact with.

August is state fair time in many states and Colorado is no different. Commencing on August 22 and running to September 2, AgrAbility had a booth set up in the education pavilion. Staff were fortunate to have a "horse" available, so it really set the booth apart.



For the remainder of the time in August, staff were just doing what they always do this time of year: calling to check on clients, record keeping, and planning for Winter Workshops 2019/2020.

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility co-sponsored the Agritourism 101 Workshop held in Alto, Georgia. Jaemor Farms hosted the event. The program featured the following topics on agritourism: customer service and working with the media; insurance considerations and an ADA overview. [More](#)

Georgia AgrAbility staff met with the Chestatee Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to tell them about the AgrAbility Project. RC&D assists with conserving natural resources, supporting economic development, and enhancing the environment. Both groups identified ways that they can partner in the future. They also co-sponsored the Agritourism 101 Workshop. (August 2nd)



Indiana



Indiana AgrAbility again had an exhibit at the Indiana State Fair in the FFA Pavilion. [More](#)

Indiana AgrAbility also took part in the Purdue Extension displays in the Agriculture/Horticulture building for two days of the Indiana State Fair as a rotating exhibit. The display was similar to the one in the FFA Pavilion except that the John Deere tractor and lift were not included.

Steve Swain, Indiana AgrAbility rural rehabilitation specialist, presented AgrAbility, farm safety, and assistive technology on the farm, to the agriculture mechanization class at North Montgomery High School. [More](#)

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) staff and volunteers enjoyed "Kansas Night" hosted by the Kansas Association of USDA Farm Service Agency County Office Employees (KASCOE). [More](#)

Kansas AgrAbility Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended the Kansas Agricultural Growth Summit in Manhattan, Kansas. [More](#)

Maine

Maine AgrAbility has been working on producing videos featuring AgrAbility clients. The videos capture a fisherman, a dairy farmer, and a vegetable farmer selling value-added products from a food truck. [More](#)

Staff are working on another video series featuring correct lifting and bending techniques for harvesting work at a farm in southern Maine. The production has several volunteer gleaners. The final video will be coming soon.



On July 18, Maine AgrAbility's veteran outreach specialist, Anne Devin, was asked to speak about her own experience in the military as part of a VetTalkx. [More](#)

On August 8, Ellen Gibson presented "Gardening Forever" in Buxton, Maine. [More](#)



As part of the annual Maine Farm Days event in Clinton Maine on August 20-21, staff enhanced their AgrAbility display with a little locomotion! They featured an electric train set in the Maine countryside traveling through the common health issues of production agricultural workers addressed by AgrAbility.



Michigan



Have to let the cat out of the bag! August provided a great month for the lead-in for the implementation of a momentous, long-awaited, indispensable, dream ... Michigan AgrAbility Demonstration Farm! Michigan AgrAbility partnered with Holland area farmer Doug Ver Hoeven to establish a demonstration farm where farmers can "try before they buy"... see and try a variety of assistive technology tools and equipment before investing in aids that can sometimes carry a hefty price tag. [More](#)

Tom Wing, a dairy farmer in Barry County, was being held back by the spondylosis that was accelerating in his spine. [More](#)



August was a busy month for Michigan AgrAbility! Staff exhibited at the 4th annual Agro Expo in St. Johns at Agro Liquid farm on Aug. 13-14, the UP State Fair (Upper Peninsula for those of you who don't know Michigan vernacular) Aug. 12-18, at the inaugural Northwest Michigan Veterans/Military Expo on Aug. 24, and to a local county Farm Bureau.

If in the MSU neighborhood on Friday, September 6, come eat some of the best pork and side dishes you will ever eat at the Alpha Gamma Rho's annual hog roast. [More](#)

Missouri

For ten days, August 8 - August 18, Missouri AgrAbility had a booth at the Missouri State Fair promoting rural health, safety, wellness, and prevention of secondary injuries within the context of agriculture through interactive hands-on safety and health displays. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility staff were invited to present at the MO USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office Annual Civil Rights Refresher on August 18 in Columbia at Parkade Plaza in the USDA Training Room. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility promoted rural health, safety, wellness, and prevention of secondary injuries within the context of agriculture through interactive hands-on safety and health displays at the Mizzou to You showcase's "University FOR Missouri" on August 24. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility partially funded the Missouri Mennonite 20th Central Missouri

Vegetable and Greenhouse Tour sponsored by the Missouri Growers Association on August 28 in Versailles, Missouri. [More](#)



University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy, a Missouri AgrAbility collaborator, provided rural wellness outreach and education at the Missouri State Fair on Aug 10th in the MO Ag Theater. [More](#)



Pharm to Farm, a collaborative partner of Missouri AgrAbility Project, presented to 50 student leaders from three locations at Columbia, Springfield, and Kansas City, from the largest student organization, American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, about how they can incorporate Missouri AgrAbility Project brochures and materials into their statewide outreach efforts. [More](#)

Maureen Cunningham, Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) executive director, discussed AgrAbility with five BIA-MO support group facilitators during their quarterly call on August 6 for the purpose of marketing AgrAbility to potential clients who attend BIA-MO support groups across Missouri.

University physical medicine and rehabilitation residency students learned about services of BIA-MO and the partnership with the Missouri AgrAbility Project as part of their lecture series when Maureen Cunningham presented to the group on August 8. There were 10 medical students and two professors in this training session.

The Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) was highlighted during the BIA-MO Networking Coffee for Professionals in Springfield on August 15. [More](#)



Courtney Stevens, BIA-MO office administrator, shared information about the Missouri AgrAbility Project and BIA-MO services with professionals who work with veterans, including those affected by brain injury, at the VA Health Care System Veterans Health Event on August 16 at Washington University in St. Louis.

Maureen Cunningham presented AgrAbility as a resource to 15 attendees of the Missouri Injury and Violence Prevention Advisory Council (MIVPAC) on August 19. [More](#)

AgrAbility networking with Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) staff and board members was productive during dinners held in conjunction with the BIAA board meeting at which Maureen Cunningham serves as a member. [More](#)

The Missouri AgrAbility Project was highlighted as a partnering resource of BIA-MO during the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign (MSECC) Fair. [More](#)

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility is very excited for client Kyle Lammers to be working with P.H.A.R.M. Dog USA. [More](#)

A staff member was able to attend a two-day Veteran and Family Fair Share in Norfolk, Nebraska. [More](#)

AgrAbility was present at Older Nebraskan Day at the State Fair. While the turnout was not great due to rainy weather and more flooding, there were a few great conversations and referrals.



Speaking of flooding, Nebraska has continued to see rain and major flooding issues. AgrAbility will be handing out wallet cards with stress/suicide resources at all events going forward. [More](#)



Emily, John Davis, and Lorri Billeter, all of Easterseals Nebraska, presented on the Largest Classroom Day at the State Fair serving K-4th grades. Children were educated on disabilities and how AgrAbility can help farmers and ranchers with disabilities. It was a fun day!

Emily has been chosen by the National Team to present at the regional workshop in California. Her topic is AT Show-N-Tell. If anyone has new and exciting AT that you feel she should share, please email it to her at efreudenburg@ne.easterseals.com

New Mexico

Staff from the New Mexico AgrAbility Project participated in an assistive technology event in Farmington, NM, led by New Mexico Technology Assistance, on August 20th. [More](#)

North Carolina

As part of the NC AgrAbility goals, the program facilitates networking activities for farmers with disabilities. These activities usually take place in the eastern and western region of the state. This year was the last year of the 4-year grant cycle, and NC AgrAbility provided the opportunity for farmers to meet and learn at the NC AgrAbility Farmer Appreciation Gala Workshop. [More](#)



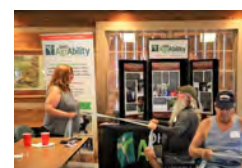
The Agribusiness department at NCA&T is collaborating with NC AgrAbility in providing solutions to farmers with disabilities. On August 27, Betty presented an overview of the program to 11 undergrad students at their agribusiness and food industry management class. [More](#)

Ohio



Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) Project Director Dr. Dee Jepsen presented "Ohio AgrAbility - Providing Resources and Assistance to Ohio Farmers with Disabilities" at the Amish Health Care Conference in early August. [More](#)

Ohio AgrAbility has been very busy with outreach and education this summer. In early August, OAP held the annual Peer to Peer Summer Meeting. [More](#)



"Fitness for Farm Life" will not be limited to the OAP summer meeting - OAP is holding daily sessions at the Ohio AgrAbility tent at Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, September 17-19. [More](#)

OAP staff presented a session on Ohio AgrAbility, OSU Extension, Generation Rx, and "PROSPER Ohio - reducing substance misuse and building strong communities" at the annual Ohio Rural Health Conference. [More](#)

Pennsylvania

Regional Workshop: Registration Open! Oct. 8-9, 2019; Days Inn Penn State, State College, PA.

The AgrAbility PA team is excited to announce that we will be hosting a regional workshop in conjunction with the National AgrAbility Project in STATE COLLEGE, PA! [More](#)



AgrAbility PA exhibited at Penn State University's annual Ag Progress Days event in August. This event is the Super Bowl equivalent for not only Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences but for hundreds of vendors, exhibitors, [More](#)

AgrAbility PA provided an educational "lunch and learn" session for staff and interns at Rodale Institute. [More](#)



Tennessee

August brought back-to-school, football, end of farmers markets, and fairs.

TN AgrAbility exhibited at the Steak and Potatoes Field Day in Crossville, TN, where farmers learned about AgrAbility, beef production, fruit and vegetable production, and information for landowners. Tours were made of the beautiful Plateau AgResearch and Education Center.

TN AgrAbility was proud to support the Yellow Ribbon Fund at a Farm to Table feast with Michael and Stephanie Trost at the first annual "Heroes, Hops and Harvest" at Pokedot Hops and Gardens, honoring injured military heroes and their incredible caregivers!

In between farm visits and exhibiting, a lot of time was spent getting ready for upcoming events in September: National Farm and Health Safety week, National Women in Ag Symposium, and the TN Small Farm Expo.



Texas



The summer heat is still in full swing in Texas, and so are Texas AgrAbility programs.

Texas AgrAbility completed a farm assessment at 4E farms in Kempner, just outside of Fort Hood. The farmer is a veteran and one of few who produce vegetables in the area. [More](#)

Staff members Cheryl Grenwelge and Makenzie Thomas assisted with the delivery of a tractor lift for Texas AgrAbility client Tim Barger. Mr. Barger has a cattle and hay operation and was an ag teacher at the time of his injury. [More](#)



Texas AgrAbility client Chase Stanley received his Life Essentials Flatbed Lift. Chase works for a heavy equipment operating company and his employer's ag operation. [More](#)



Farmers Assisting Returning Military (F.A.R.M.) hosted a farm tour in conjunction with the Dallas agriculture business workshop hosted by Texas AgrAbility and BattleGround to Breaking Ground. [More](#)

Texas AgrAbility and BattleGround to Breaking Ground hosted ag business workshops in Dallas and San Angelo in August. The workshops highlighted a veteran in production agriculture and includes presentations on ag business ideas, business planning basics, financial funding options, and veteran and beginning farmer resources.



Utah

AgrAbility of Utah presented at the Utah Wool Growers Summer Convention in Coalville, UT, on August 5. [More](#)

Staff Changes and Recognition

New Mexico



Deborah Wieclaw is the new AgrAbility Specialist with the New Mexico Technology Assistance Program. She has an associate degree from CNM, a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and holds a master's degree in Agriculture from New Mexico State University. Deborah is from, and continues to live in, the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. [MORE](#)

Wisconsin

AgrAbility of Wisconsin recently said goodbye to Outreach Specialist Abi Jensen. We thank Abi for her three years of work and her continued help through volunteering with the program.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin says hello to new Outreach Specialist Amanda Harguth. Amanda started in August and is excited to bring her experience and passion to the program.



Missouri



Please welcome Andrew Downs who joins the Missouri AgrAbility team this summer. Andrew will be a data analyst, primarily focusing on accumulating and presenting data for both internal and external use. Andrew is enrolled at Purdue University as an actuarial science major and plans on graduating in 2021. He grew up in central Missouri. He spent his younger years involved in Cub Scouts, and still enjoys hiking and camping with friends and family. Andrew also enjoys both music and math and has decided to pursue his interest in math as a career.

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects.

- [AgrAbility meets the needs of farmers with disabilities](#) (AgrAbility of Utah)
- [AgrAbility Regional Workshop – State College, PA](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)

- [Technology, temporary help keeps farmers on job longer](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
 - [Exercise in a combine?](#) (Ohio AgrAbility Project)
 - [‘Stronger Than Yesterday’ blogger to speak at Pearls of Production event for women](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
 - [Michigan AgrAbility announces demonstration farm](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
 - [New AgrAbility director seeks to help people with disabilities stay in ag industry](#) (AgrAbility of Utah)
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OtherNews

Click titles below for other news of interest to AgrAbility staff members.

- [Let's shift farm safety into high gear this harvest](#)
 - [Delivering child care in agricultural communities](#)
 - [Farm Service Agency expands payment options](#)
 - [Changes on the horizon for H-2A](#)
 - [Electronic glove offers ‘humanlike’ features for prosthetic hand users](#)
 - [‘Gen Z Speaks Ag’ Advocacy Contest](#)
 - [Installing solar panels on farms maximizes efficiency](#)
 - [Pittsville man wanted firefighters to know how to save lives on farms. In death, his wish carries on.](#)
 - [Wheelchair Climber Pushes Limitations on 2,300-mile Road Trip Through Majestic Wilderness](#)
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UpcomingEvents

[Click here for professional development events related to AgrAbility.](#)

Problems? Contact Chuck Baldwin, National AgrAbility Project, baldwi19@purdue.edu
[Unsubscribe from the e-Note](#)

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September 2019

National AgrAbility Project



The National AgrAbility Project was one of many exhibitors at the 2019 Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Illinois. The NAP exhibited jointly with Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited in the Health and Safety Tent, which was coordinated by Kelly Gagnon from Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited. The three-day show provided an opportunity to give information to farmers and ranchers with disabilities and their

families on how they might continue farming with a disability. The displays included NAP publications, Illinois AgrAbility publications, an Action Track Stander power wheelchair, and an adapted Polaris Ranger utility vehicle.



Submitted by Steve Swain

September 2019

Alaska

Fairs, Fairs, Fairs! It was fair time in Alaska, as in many other states. AgrAbility staff attended several fairs around the state in Fairbanks, Ninilchik, Palmer, and Kodiak this year, talking to farmers, ranchers, fishers, and the general public about AgrAbility resources and assessment opportunities. Some of the fairs were a joint outreach effort with Assistive Technologies of Alaska (ATLA). ATLA provided information on assistive technology and other resource programs they have to assist with funding equipment. They also had equipment for demonstration for sight and hearing impairments.



Submitted by DeShana York

September 2019

California



California AgrAbility and a coalition of agencies in Yolo County held the first "Encuentro de Promotores," an event that brought together 20 community leaders from rural Yolo County. The event was hosted and sponsored by St. John's Retirement Village. The goal of this event was to help attendees develop their communication skills in a small group setting. The

conference program was well received: attendees commented that the event had helped them strengthen their commitment to serve their communities.

California AgrAbility staff attended a presentation by Amjad Ramahi, Ph. D. candidate in the ergonomics lab, on the effectiveness of treatment in ligament injuries. He discovered that NSAIDS (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) will mitigate pain; however, they may slow down the recovery process. With this, he is able to assess how to best treat lower back ligament injuries commonly found in the agricultural workers due to the constant stooping positions of agricultural labor.



California AgrAbility conducted outreach at the Durst Organics Farm Health Fair to migrant and seasonal farmworkers employed by the farm. Participants were able to receive free vital exams to check their cholesterol, blood sugar content, and other tests, to determine their health base line. Attendees were informed about AgrAbility services and how assistive tools are able to make their work easier, mitigating potential chronic illnesses. Staff also connected with the farm's foreman to discuss the need for an assistive tool for harvesting asparagus to prevent the stooping position and mitigate lower back injuries and

aches.

Submitted by Sara Wat

September 2019

Colorado

August has been a fun month for the Colorado AgrAbility Project. CAP's partner organization, Goodwill Industries of Denver, held its annual golf tournament fundraiser. Personnel were asked to attend and staff a hole so that AgrAbility could receive some attention from stakeholders that staff normally do not interact with. So, Candy and James set up an AgrAbility display on the 15th hole. They had great fun all day and did have many questions asked by persons that were unaware that Goodwill had such a program.



Submitted by Jim Craig

September 2019

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility co-sponsored the Agritourism 101 Workshop held in Alto, Georgia. Jaemor Farms hosted the event. The program featured the following topics on agritourism: customer service and



working with the media; insurance considerations and an ADA overview. Highlights included a walking tour of Jaemor Farms and a farmers' panel. The audience also learned about the state's Georgia Grown initiative and the Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D program. Information on USDA resources were also shared. Surveys indicated that 93% of the participants felt more confident to operate an agritourism operation based on the workshop. (August 28th)



Submitted by Rebecca Brightwell

September 2019

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility again had an exhibit at the Indiana State Fair in the FFA Pavilion. Staffed by AgrAbility personnel, consultants, and volunteers, the exhibit included an AgrAbility popup, AgrAbility publications, It's About Hope and Restoring Hope, Renewing Productivity videos, beginning farmer and veteran resources, Indiana Farmer Veteran publications, VR publications, health and safety publications, a tool display "Tools to Make Your Life Easier", a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift, and an Action Track Stander power wheelchair.



Steve Swain, Indiana AgrAbility rural rehabilitation specialist, presented AgrAbility, farm safety, and assistive technology on the farm, to the agriculture mechanization class at North Montgomery High School. The class is part of the North Montgomery FFA chapter that was a past winner of the Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest sponsored by Indiana AgrAbility. Class members asked many questions about AgrAbility and continuing to farm with a disability.

Submitted by Steve Swain

September 2019

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) staff and volunteers enjoyed "Kansas Night" hosted by the Kansas Association of USDA Farm Service Agency County Office Employees (KASCOE). The event was attended by FSA agents from around the country. Many of the agents were familiar with AgrAbility in their home state and enjoyed playing a trivia game at the KAP table. KAP would like to thank Emily Freudenburg from Nebraska AgrAbility for providing ideas on how to play the game, including fun trivia questions.

Kansas AgrAbility Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended the Kansas Agricultural Growth Summit in Manhattan, Kansas. The summit was attended by 450+ Kansas farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness personnel that worked together in a collaborative setting to discuss growing agriculture in Kansas.

Submitted by Tawnie Larson

September 2019

Maine

Maine AgrAbility has been working on producing videos featuring AgrAbility clients. The videos capture a fisherman, a dairy farmer, and a vegetable farmer selling value-added products from a food truck. Each story illustrates the essence of the farmer and their ability to continue to farm. Here's the [teaser short clip](#): Final videos will be coming soon!



On July 18, Maine AgrAbility's veteran outreach specialist, Anne Devin, was asked to speak about her own experience in the military as part of a VetTalkx. (Other Maine women are featured on this video too, but Anne starts her talk at 24:29). Watch it [here](#). Maine staff are proud to have Anne as art of the Maine team!

On August 8, Ellen Gibson presented "Gardening Forever" in Buxton, Maine. Ellen shared tips on stretching and safe lifting and demonstrated adaptive hand tools. Ellen also presented safe lifting and bending techniques to the Maine Cheese Guild members during their August 13 meeting.

Submitted by Lani Carlson

September 2019

Michigan

Have to let the cat out of the bag! August provided a great month for the lead-in for the implementation of a momentous, long-awaited, indispensable, dream ... Michigan AgrAbility Demonstration Farm! Michigan AgrAbility partnered with Holland area farmer Doug Ver Hoeven to establish a demonstration farm where farmers can "try before they buy"... see and try a variety of assistive technology tools and equipment before investing in aids that can sometimes carry a hefty price tag. In high school, Doug was in a vehicle accident and sustained injuries that placed him in a wheelchair. Undeterred, he has been farming from his wheelchair for over forty years. Doug is an AgrAbility client and a member of the Michigan AgrAbility farmer advisory panel. 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 and he wants to share this knowledge with others. Michigan AgrAbility is grateful for Doug's generosity to share his life's learning and his farmstead so others can benefit. Check out the Michigan AgrAbility Facebook page to get a [sneak peek](#). Thank you Bev Berens for sharing the Michigan AgrAbility Demonstration Farm [press release](#).



Tom Wing, a dairy farmer in Barry County, was being held back by the spondylosis that was accelerating in his spine. Michigan AgrAbility, with assistance from Michigan Rehab Services and Easterseals Michigan, helped Tom obtain several items that will improve his safety on the farm and keep him operating his 100-plus cow dairy and 600 acres of crops. See Tom's story on the [Michigan AgrAbility Facebook](#) page...

In addition to increasing the safety of milking parlor access, Tom also had a new lift installed on his combine to lessen the strain on his body.

If in the MSU neighborhood on Friday, September 6, come eat some of the best pork and side dishes you will ever eat at the Alpha Gamma Rho's annual hog roast fundraiser to support Michigan AgrAbility. 432 Evergreen Ave, East Lansing will not be hard to find... just follow your nose!

Submitted by Deb Chester

September 2019

Missouri

For ten days, August 8 - August 18, Missouri AgrAbility had a booth at the Missouri State Fair promoting rural health, safety, wellness, and prevention of secondary injuries within the context of agriculture through interactive hands-on safety and health displays. Displays were staffed by staff members from MU Extension, MO Department of Labor, and MO Department of Conservation. Missouri AgrAbility awareness materials were also shared with fairgoers. Newly developed Missouri AgrAbility mental health awareness resources and stress management info packets that are co-branded with the MO Department of Agriculture, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, and Alabama Department of Mental Health, were also handed out. MO Department of Mental Health staff facilitated stress management questions or addressed mental health concerns.

Missouri AgrAbility staff were invited to present at the MO USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office Annual Civil Rights Refresher on August 18 in Columbia at Parkade Plaza in the USDA Training Room. Mr. Brad McCord, USDA NRCS outreach coordinator, kicked the half-day workshop off with an overview of NRCS civil rights employee responsibilities followed by state employees learning about the American Indian Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program (SEPM), 2017 Ag Census update for historically underserved operators in Missouri, connecting with historically underserved agricultural producers through Missouri AgrAbility Program, and Disability Emphasis Program.

Missouri AgrAbility promoted rural health, safety, wellness, and prevention of secondary injuries within the context of agriculture through interactive hands-on safety and health displays at the Mizzou to You showcase's "University FOR Missouri" on August 24. Missouri AgrAbility awareness materials as well as mental health awareness resources and stress management info packets were handed out.

Missouri AgrAbility partially funded the Missouri Mennonite 20th Central Missouri Vegetable and Greenhouse Tour sponsored by the Missouri Growers Association on August 28 in Versailles, Missouri. Seventy-four participants were given Missouri AgrAbility materials and a pesticide safety resource co-branded with AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians Program.

Submitted by Karen Funkenbusch



University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy, a Missouri AgrAbility collaborator, provided rural wellness outreach and education at the Missouri State Fair on August 10th in the MO Ag Theater. Missourians from over 30 counties were reached through the effort. Thirty individuals were educated about



farm safety and health and Pharm to Farm, and Missouri AgrAbility flyers were distributed. Wellness screenings, in collaboration with the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, including diabetes risk assessment, blood pressure, heart health education, and medication list wallet cards, were provided to 168 individuals at a value of over \$10,000. Tobacco cessation/prevention education using a smoker's lung display was a hit



with attendees, educating 350 individuals. One hundred individuals were educated about immunizations, and 275 families were educated about OTC Med Safety education.



Pharm to Farm, a collaborative partner of Missouri AgrAbility Project, presented to 50 student leaders from three locations at Columbia, Springfield, and Kansas City, from the largest student organization, American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, about how they can incorporate Missouri AgrAbility Project brochures and materials into their statewide outreach efforts. Student leaders were educated about partnership opportunities for upcoming rural wellness screening events and health-screening supplies were used to demonstrate how to provide customized assessment and education.

Submitted by Kelly Cochran

The Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) was highlighted during the BIA-MO Networking Coffee for Professionals in Springfield on August 15. David Middleton, with Lincoln University, provided details of on-the-farm assessments as part of his AgrAbility role. Shon Bishop, co-PI with MAP, expanded the AgrAbility networking by highlighting additional roles of Lincoln University in partnership with AgrAbility. Maureen Cunningham added supporting information for the 12 professionals in attendance to refer their farmers with disabilities to AgrAbility.

Maureen Cunningham presented AgrAbility as a resource to 15 attendees of the Missouri Injury and Violence Prevention Advisory Council (MIVPAC) on August 19. The discussion featured services of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, including partnering with the Missouri AgrAbility Project to help farmers with disabilities and future farmers who sustain an injury and their families remain or return to farming.

AgrAbility networking with Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) staff and board members was productive during dinners held in conjunction with the BIAA board meeting at which Maureen Cunningham serves as a member. These conversations, led by Ms. Cunningham on August 21 and 22, included the benefits of partnering with AgrAbility to help survivors of brain injury be self-sustaining through production agriculture and strengthening the organization's mission to serve all regions of Missouri.

The Missouri AgrAbility Project was highlighted as a partnering resource of BIA-MO during the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign (MSECC) Fair. Maureen Cunningham marketed AgrAbility to fair attendees as a resource for clients they serve within their Missouri state department as well as for their family members with disabilities who are farmers or are in other production agriculture jobs. Approximately 75 conversations with handouts featuring AgrAbility were held during the four-hour Fair on August 28.

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

September 2019

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility is very excited for client Kyle Lammers to be working with P.H.A.R.M. Dog USA. Kyle will be matched with his dog in September. Emily plans to be there to watch as the handler teaches Kyle and his new dog to work together on the farm. Nebraska AgrAbility feels so lucky that P.H.A.R.M. Dog has asked them to be a part of this day.



A staff member was able to attend a two-day Veteran and Family Fair Share in Norfolk, Nebraska. This event was geared so attendees could visit one location and sign up for veteran benefits and health care, and then talk to other vendors about how they could assist veterans. NE AgrAbility talked to a few veterans who are interested in careers as farmers and staff will continue to be in contact with them.

Speaking of flooding, Nebraska has continued to see rain and major flooding issues. AgrAbility will be handing out wallet cards with stress/suicide resources at all events going forward. This card will be given with encouragement to keep on hand in case a friend needs help, knowing that it may be the person with the card who needs help. Mental wellness is NE AgrAbility's focus now. At Extension's Communicating With Farmers Under Stress workshops, AgrAbility is always discussed as a resource for ag professionals to give to clients.

Submitted by Susan Harris-Broomfield

September 2019

New Mexico

Staff from the New Mexico AgrAbility Project participated in an assistive technology event in Farmington, NM, led by New Mexico Technology Assistance on August 20. The event was sponsored by the San Juan Center for Independence. Approximately 40 professionals attended the event and learned more about technology using eye-gaze input devices and other apps. Participants learned about the mission of AgrAbility, the New Mexico partners, how to make referrals to the program, and examples of "farm" AT.

Submitted by Carla Wilhite

Staff Changes and Recognition

Deborah Wieclaw is the new AgrAbility specialist with the New Mexico Technology Assistance Program. She has an associate degree from CNM, a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, and holds a master's degree in agriculture from New Mexico State University. Deborah is from, and continues to live in, the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico.



She has a diverse history working with individuals with traumatic brain injury, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and age-related challenges, where the goal is not to simply live, but to live purposely by adapting and overcoming obstacles. Deborah also has an extensive history working in animal husbandry that includes pets, livestock, and exotic animals. As a youth, Deborah competed in horse shows and rodeos, and participated in 4H. More recently she has participated in competitive archery and helped in junior rodeo events. She is relatively new to riding motorcycles and looks forward to her first Poker Run for charity.

At home, Deborah and her husband maintain the tractors and a vegetable garden. Home security and pest control are left to the dogs and cats of the household. She raises chickens and goats and keeps a domestic life that is busy, especially when the animals are in charge and the leader of the pack is a 36-inch-tall horse named PT.

Submitted by Tracy Agiovlasis

September 2019

North Carolina

As part of the NC AgrAbility goals, the program facilitates networking activities for farmers with disabilities. These activities usually take place in the eastern and western region of the state.



This year was the last year of the 4-year grant cycle, and NC AgrAbility provided the opportunity for farmers to meet and learn at the NC AgrAbility Farmer Appreciation Gala Workshop. The event in the west took place on August 6 at the Iredell County Cooperative Extension office and, in the east, on August 13 at the Johnston County Cooperative Extension office. At this family-friendly event staff had the opportunity to gather around 30 people.



The Agribusiness department at NCA&T is collaborating with NC AgrAbility in providing solutions to farmers with disabilities. On August 27, Betty presented an overview of the program to 11 undergrad students at their agribusiness and food industry management class. She provided two case studies for the students to work during the fall semester. Dr. Kenrrett Jefferson-More is leading the class in preparing business plans for these two AgrAbility clients.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

September 2019

Ohio



Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) Project Director Dr. Dee Jepsen presented "Ohio AgrAbility - Providing Resources and Assistance to Ohio Farmers with Disabilities" at the Amish Health Care Conference in early August. Dr. Jepsen has worked with the Amish for several years, sharing educational opportunities and resources on Ohio AgrAbility, agricultural safety and health, and horse and buggy safety, among other topics.

Ohio AgrAbility has been very busy with outreach and education this summer. In early August, OAP held the annual Peer to Peer Summer Meeting. This meeting gives staff an opportunity to share updates about OAP, give previews of OAP workshops and events at the Farm Science Review in September, and present information on new assistive technology and equipment. OAP farmers have the chance to ask staff questions about OAP outreach and upcoming events. Farmers get to see old friends, meet new ones, and network with farmers from across Ohio. At the summer meeting, OAP staff partnered with the OSU Buckeye Wellness Innovators for "Fitness for Farm Life: Everyday Stretches and Exercises." The exercises were taught and demonstrated by Leah and Josh. Activities included using resistance bands, modifying an exercise or stretch based on the participant's ability and range of motion, how to stretch after exercise, and during the workday. Everyone enjoyed the exercises. Many people asked for resources for the exercises and suggestions on where to find more ideas for adding exercise and stretching to their workday.



"Fitness for Farm Life" will not be limited to the OAP summer meeting - OAP is holding daily sessions at the Ohio AgrAbility tent at Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, September 17-19. Several nursing students will be joining the OAP fitness experts to lead sessions and answer questions. The routine will include stretches to reduce the odds that peoples' backs, necks, and knees won't rebel at the end of a long day on the farm. At the Review, participants will discover what they can do to support their back and neck as well as effective ways to carry, push, or pull equipment, so they don't suffer pain later.

OAP staff presented a session on Ohio AgrAbility, OSU Extension, Generation Rx, and "PROSPER Ohio - reducing substance misuse and building strong communities" at the annual Ohio Rural Health Conference. OAP staff exhibited posters and resources and made connections with professionals from rural health, rural transportation and mobility, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and several Ohio colleges with programs focused on rural health.

Submitted by Ohio AgrAbility Project

September 2019

Pennsylvania

Regional Workshop: Registration Open! Oct. 8-9, 2019; Days Inn Penn State, State College, PA.

The AgrAbility PA team is excited to announce that we will be hosting a regional workshop in conjunction with the National AgrAbility Project in STATE COLLEGE, PA!

- 1-day: Sessions or Tour only \$50
- 2-day: Full Conference (Sessions and Tour) \$100
- Hotel: only \$99 per night if reserved by Sept. 6

Registration and reservation details: <http://agrabilitypa.org/workshop/>

This two-day workshop is a great opportunity to learn more about occupational therapy and assistive technology on the farm - working together to keep farmers farming! The first day will include opening remarks, sessions, and a farmer panel. The second day will include farm tours of AgrAbility PA-connected farms and farmers.



AgrAbility PA exhibited at Penn State University's annual Ag Progress Days event in August. This event is the Super Bowl equivalent for not only Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences but for hundreds of vendors, exhibitors, strategic partners, ag researchers, ag educators, ag safety specialists, equipment dealers, and more, with over 80+ acres of displays and demonstrations.



AgrAbility PA exhibited inside the Rural Health & Safety Tent where a variety of health screenings were offered: blood pressure readings, stroke risk assessments, hearing screenings, and more. Hands-on demonstrations for assistive technology included Stand 'N Plant planter, hand safety, back-up camera, and a scooter. AgrAbility PA's long-time occupational therapist, Dwight Heller, who is a certified hand therapist and works with AgrAbility PA farmers, was also available to share

information and consult with attendees one-on-one. Life Essentials, Action Trackchair, and Agri-Speed Hitch exhibited as vendors at the event and demonstrated equipment from power wheelchairs to hands-free hitch connectors to lifts for vehicles and mobility aides.



AgrAbility PA provided an educational "lunch and learn" session for staff and interns at Rodale Institute. The Rodale Institute is a 333-acre certified organic farm near Kutztown, PA. The focus of the farm is research and education about organic farming. They also have a farmer veteran training program that includes a 2- to 4-month paid internship at the Rodale farm. The educational session included information on AgrAbility and other veteran and disability related resources.

Submitted by Abbie Spackman

September 2019

Tennessee

TN AgrAbility was proud to support the Yellow Ribbon Fund at a Farm to Table feast with Michael and Stephanie Trost at the first annual "Heroes, Hops and Harvest" at Pokedot Hops and Gardens, honoring injured military heroes and their incredible caregivers! Thank you to Farmer Veteran Coalition for supporting the event. BIG THANK YOU to the Trosts for all they do to help veterans and caregivers.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility



September 2019

Texas



Texas AgrAbility completed a farm assessment at 4E farms in Kempner, just outside of Fort Hood. The farmer is a veteran and one of few who produce vegetables in the area. As a participant of the BattleGround to Breaking Ground program, he was able to complete a business plan and get education and hands-on training related to vegetable production, business management, and much more. He will also serve as a mentor for the

incoming cohorts of the BattleGround program participants.

Staff members Cheryl Grenwelge and Makenzie Thomas assisted with the delivery of a tractor lift for Texas AgrAbility client Tim Barger. Mr. Barger has a cattle and hay operation and was an ag teacher at the time of his injury. He also received an ActionTrack Chair through Vocational Rehab to assist with his access to the property and to his livestock. Since working with Texas AgrAbility, he has been able to return to work as an ag teacher, the first time since his injury in 2013.



Texas AgrAbility client Chase Stanley received his Life Essentials Flatbed Lift. Chase works for a heavy equipment operating company and his employer's ag operation. The flatbed lift will allow him to access and work on the equipment and better help his employer on the farm. Check out this video of Chase accessing his excavator before working with AgrAbility [here](#):

Farmers Assisting Returning Military (F.A.R.M.) hosted a farm tour in conjunction with the Dallas agriculture business workshop hosted by Texas AgrAbility and BattleGround to Breaking Ground. F.A.R.M. provided a tour and shared their experience farming as veterans in an urban setting. F.A.R.M. is a veteran run farm in Downtown Dallas that sells specialty crops at the Dallas Farmers Market, is an agritourism destination, and utilizes farming to benefit at-risk veterans.



Submitted by Makenzie McLaurin Thomas

September 2019

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah presented at the Utah Wool Growers Summer Convention in Coalville, UT, on August 5. Over 100 members attended the multi-site convention, which started in Park City, UT, and ended in Coalville, UT. Members participated in workshops before visiting three ranches between Park City and Coalville. Utah ranks fifth in the country in states with the most sheep.

Submitted by Randall Bagley

September 2019

Upcoming Events

- Name** National Farm Safety and Health Week 2019
Dates September 15-21, 2019
City, State National
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek/>
563.557.0354
888.844.6322
- Name** Farm Science Review
Dates September 17-19, 2019
City, State London, Ohio
Contact Info/Web link <https://fsr.osu.edu/>
- Name** Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day 2019
Dates September 18, 2019
City, State Waukesha, Wisconsin
Contact Info/Web link <https://thelandconnection.org/event/mechanicalweedcontrol2019/>
For more info on the event and registration, contact The Land Connection at info@thelandconnection.org or (312) 840-2128.
- Name** 80th Minnesota Nutrition Conference
Dates September 18-19, 2019
City, State Mankato, Minnesota
Contact Info/Web link <http://mnnutritionconf.umn.edu/>
- Name** 30th Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting
Dates September 23-26, 2019
City, State Kansas City, Missouri
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.nashia.org/SOS2019.asp>
NOTE: Panelists Sept. 25 associated with MO AgrAbility: Susan Jaster (Missouri AgrAbility Project, Lincoln University), George Gotto (UMKC – TBI Grant Program lead), Wendy Moore (DHSS Adult Brain Injury Program Service Coordinator), and Maureen Cunningham (Brain Injury Association of Missouri)
- Name** O'Fallon small farm operator workshop

Dates September 24, 2019
City, State O'Fallon, Missouri
Contact [Missouri AgrAbility Project](#)
Info/Web link Toll Free: 1.800.995.8503
E-mail: AgrAbility@missouri.edu

Name Seven Habits for Effective Farmers Webinar Series: Farm Safety and Stress Management
Dates October 2, 2019
City, State Online Webinar
Contact <http://tiny.utk.edu/sevenhabits> - register online
Info/Web link <https://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa/Pages/webinars.aspx> – additional information

Name AgrAbility Regional Workshop
Dates October 8-9, 2019
City, State State College, Pennsylvania
Contact (814) 867-5288 agrability@psu.edu
Info/Web link

Name KY FVC Stakeholders Meeting
Dates October 10, 2019
City, State Frankfort, Kentucky
Contact Toll Free: 800-333-2814 or 859-257-1845
Info/Web link Linda.Bokros@uky.edu

Name Sunbelt Ag Expo
Dates October 15-17, 2019
City, State Moultrie, Georgia
Contact <https://sunbeltexpo.com/>
Info/Web link

Name 4th National Farm Viability Conference
Dates October 22-24, 2019
City, State Red Wing, Minnesota
Contact <https://www.farmviabilityconference.com/>
Info/Web link

Name 2019 Sustainable Agriculture Conference
Dates November 1-3, 2019
City, State Durham, North Carolina
Contact <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/sac/>
Info/Web link

Name Seven Habits for Effective Farmers Webinar Series: Succession Planning
Dates November 6, 2019
City, State Online Webinar
Contact <http://tiny.utk.edu/sevenhabits> - register online
Info/Web link <https://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa/Pages/webinars.aspx> – additional information

Name Farmer Veteran Coalition Lone Star Stripes 2019 Stakeholders Conference
Dates November 17-20, 2019
City, State Austin, Texas
Contact <https://conference.farmvetco.org/>
Info/Web link