

# AgrAbility e·Note

November 2019

*A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility*

## National AgrAbility Project News

### NTW registration will be opening soon!

- The AgrAbility National Training Workshop will take place in Madison, WI, March 23-26, 2020. Tess has received many proposed sessions, including topics such as agriculture as therapy, preventing secondary injuries, assistive technology for agriculture, adding value to your farm, dealing with stress, and veterans in agriculture.
- The keynote speaker will be [Davon Goodwin](#), a farmer, veteran, and AgrAbility client from NC. For your planning, this year's keynote address, banquet dinner, and live auction will be on Tuesday night rather than Wednesday night.
- Please start thinking about possible exhibitors or sponsors. [Online Exhibitor Form](#). [Printable Exhibitor Form](#). You can also direct anyone interested to contact Tess or JoBeth.
- Contact JoBeth or Tess anytime at: - JoBeth Rath - [jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org) 585.402.2059 and Tess McKeel - [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org) - 585.447.9015



Registration is open for the Regional Workshop in Davis, CA, on December 3-4, at the Mondavi Sensory Theatre. [More](#)

AgrAbility Webinar: "Alternative Financing for Assistive Technology," Thursday, December 5, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET. Register by December 2. [More](#)



Paul Jones, Ned Stoller, and Sierra Royster represented AgrAbility at the 25th Annual APRIL Conference on Rural Independent Living in Grand Rapids, MI. Approximately 425 attendees participated in the event, and Ned and Paul had a session on AT for outdoor work and mobility.

The Regional Workshop in State College, PA, had a wonderful turnout last month. There were 36 attendees from five different states. Presentations were insightful and covered topics on OT, AT, funding, and resources. [More](#)

[The NAP Advisory Team](#), NAP staff, and NAP consultants met in Indianapolis on November 12-13 for their annual face-to-face meeting to provide feedback on AgrAbility initiatives. Many thanks to those who braved the arctic weather to participate.

In September, the USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach announced that the [Peoples Foundation](#), with partners [National AgrAbility Project](#) and Legacy Farming and Health Group had been awarded a three-year 2501 Program grant. [More](#)

November 1-2, Chuck Baldwin, National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, participated in the 29th annual conference of the National Black Farmers Association in Prattville, Alabama, as a presenter and exhibitor. [More](#)



---

## Toolbox Spotlight



The [Workshop Ceiling-Track System](#) is designed to keep cords and hoses off the ground or work surface so tasks can be accomplished without their getting in the way. The basic system includes a 4-foot track that houses two rolling trolleys, each of which accepts a ring-hook and a 2 1/2-inch J-hook onto which extension cords, air-fittings, hoses, etc. can be hung.

---

## State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

### Alaska

In October, Alaska AgrAbility was promoted in Wasilla and Fairbanks. The Wasilla Health Fair brought in many locals for blood tests, flu shots, and to learn about organizations looking to support their community. [More](#)

Also in October, outreach engagements included two annual conferences: the Alaska Environmental Health Association Conference in Anchorage (10/9/-10/11), and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) (10/17-10/19) that was hosted in Fairbanks this year. [More](#)



The photo is of Kate Yenik, Assistive Technology Acquisition Assistance Program (ATAAP) Coordinator with ATLA in Wasilla, Alaska, sharing program information and demonstrating assistive technologies at a health fair. [More](#)

---

### California

California AgrAbility had a booth at the 29th Annual Celebration of Farmworker Day in Gridley located in Butte County. The event brought together state, county, and local agencies such as the Department of Pesticide Regulation, University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource Services, [More](#)



California AgrAbility conducted outreach at the UC Davis Disability Symposium and Technology Fair on the UC Davis main campus. Staff showcased ergonomic gardening tools to students, staff, and faculty. [More](#)

Staff presented AgrAbility at the San Mateo Abilities Expo with their partner agency, Ability Tools, which brought at-home living assistive tools



for attendees to learn about devices that could make day to day task easier while living with a disability. [More](#)

Hamid Fonooni, director of the ergonomics program in the UC Davis Occupational Health Services Department, presented on ergonomics for the UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department. [More](#)



---

## Colorado

During the past month, the Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) attended a low vision/AT expo in Durango, CO. Staff spent the day there and were able to make a two-hour presentation on AgrAbility 101 and a series of personal success stories.



At month's end, CAP staff were invited to attend a suicide prevention listening session hosted by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. The facilitator gathered a group of stakeholders in both agriculture and mental health services. [More](#)

---

## Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility staff attended the 2019 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition located in Moultrie, Georgia, October 15-17. This is North America's premier farm show with over 1,200 vendors participating. Georgia AgrAbility was represented at the expo as The AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station. [More](#)



October 29, Georgia AgrAbility staff presented two sessions, "Farming with a Disability" and "Universal Designed Learning", at the 2019 Georgia Association of People Supporting Employment First (GAPSE) Conference. [More](#)

---

## Illinois



Compeer Financial recently presented AgrAbility of Illinois with a donation of \$9,475. As part of Compeer's recent board of directors election, the company pledged \$5 for each vote received. This donation will greatly help AgrAbility sustain programming in the coming year.

AgrAbility of Illinois staff are planning online Ambassador trainings for November 2019. Staff will update ambassadors on goals for the program year, review expectations and needs, and communicate opportunities for promotion assistance in the 2020 program year.

---

## Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility Rural Rehabilitation Specialist Steve Swain attended the third annual Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Brain Injury and Resource Facilitation Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. [More](#)

Indiana AgrAbility attended and exhibited at the Purdue Extension agriculture and natural resources educator fall retreat held at the Beck Center on the Purdue Agronomy Farm. [More](#)

Indiana AgrAbility continues to conduct farm visits and VR farm accessibility assessments, and to make recommendations and product quotes for farmers with disabilities.

---

## Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility (KAP) and the Western AT Access Site co-hosted Ag Demonstration Day on October 10 from 10:00- 3:00. Eleven vendors participated and 55 farmers, ranchers, and family members attended. [More](#)



Twenty-six occupational therapists from northeast Kansas participated in a three-hour workshop that focused on helping patients participate in rural life after rehab hosted by Stormont Vail Hospital. [More](#)



Karin Rasmussen and her team did a fabulous job on the Western Kansas AgrAbility Day!! Kansas Farm and Ranch Radio produced an awesome video of Karin, her vendors, and customers. Readers can find it on the [Kansas AgrAbility Facebook](#) page or by clicking [here](#). Great Job Everyone!!

---

## Maine

Maine AgrAbility is pleased to announce that several new videos have been finalized and added to its website resource list. [More](#)

Additionally, staff have developed three other videos and one summary video to share success stories and the possibilities of working in production agriculture with a disability. [More](#)



Three Maine staffers (Lani Carlson, Anne Devin, and Marie DeFranca) attended the AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop in State College, PA. Helpful information was shared and all three enjoyed the opportunity to try out assistive technology first-hand.

Ellen Gibson presented "Gardening & Ergonomics" to two separate groups this month: once for Department of Transportation employees at the Maine Safety & Health Conference in Augusta, and also for the Mid Coast Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting in Brunswick. [More](#)



After many months of prep work, Maine AgrAbility hosted the first annual Educate to Cultivate (E2C) Business Development and Assistive Technology Symposium for Military Veterans in Agriculture in Augusta. The E2C symposium was for military veterans and their partners involved in agriculture or for those veterans who desire to learn more about safely and successfully running their own business in agriculture. [More](#)

Staff developed a new sticker for the E2C to remind people to "Farm Strong" - not only because physical strength is needed for this occupation, but "farm strong" to build strong community networks and create resilience to maintain a safe and productive farm.



Other exhibits this month included a display at Aging Well Living Well-



Seniors Plus Expo in Bethel staffed by Brie Weisman, an AgrAbility Display at the Maine Brain Injury Association annual conference in South Portland staffed by Kelley Smith, and a display at the Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation & Forestry joint meeting with UMaine Cooperative Extension in Augusta.

---

## Michigan



At the annual Champions Ceremony held in Lansing, MI, the Michigan Council of Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and @Michigan Career and Technical Institute honored the Michigan AgrAbility program as a statewide partner that has demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities. [More](#)

Frank Tomack, who farms near Chesaning, helps install and retrofit AT for AgrAbility clients' occupancy. Along with row crops, Frank's family raises twenty acres of pumpkins and gourds with over 270 varieties! [More](#)



Michigan citizens elected a new governor in 2018 ... and with a new governor comes departmental reorganization. [More](#)

---

## Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility staff members Karen Funkenbusch, Joni Harper, Darla Campbell, and Jim Spencer, all with the University of Missouri Extension, and David Middleton and Jim Pierce from the Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program at Lincoln University attended the North Central Region (NCR) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) beginning farmers and ranchers training workshop in Plainville, Indiana, October 1-2.

Missouri AgrAbility staff from the University of Missouri Extension exhibited smart technologies and demonstrated ergonomic tools to farmers and farm families. [More](#)



University of Missouri AgrAbility staff exhibited smart technologies and demonstrated ergonomic tools to farmers, ranchers, and farm families, in addition to handing out farmer stress information and opioid resources at the third annual Great Pumpkin Fall Festival, October 12th, in Paris, Missouri.

Karen Funkenbusch participated with Missouri Aging and Disability Research Network in a meeting sponsored by the Department of Occupational Therapy, Washington University, in St. Louis, Missouri, October 15.

Kelly Cochran, PharmD, BCPS, a Missouri AgrAbility collaborative partner, facilitated the October Missouri AgrAbility Collaborative Team monthly Zoom teleconference. [More](#)

Lincoln University's Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP) in collaboration with the University of Missouri has been busy throughout the month of October. [More](#)



Brain Injury Association of Missouri Speakers Bureau volunteer Josh Thompson highlighted the Missouri AgrAbility Project as a resource during an educational presentation at the Missouri Association of Rural Education Conference on October 24.

The Missouri Occupational Therapy Association Conference included a "Brain Injury Causes, Impact and Resources" presentation by BIA-MO Speakers Bureau volunteer Kathleen Winklemann. [More](#)



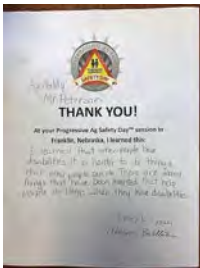
The BIA-MO 15th Annual Professional Development Conference featured the Missouri AgrAbility Project as a track sponsor with recognition throughout the three-day educational program for professionals, survivors of brain injury, and family members. [More](#)

David Middleton, Lincoln University, represented the Missouri AgrAbility Project partnership as a presenter for the "Increasing Independence and Improving Therapy with Technology, Robotics and Adaptive Equipment" session during the professional days of the BIA-MO 15th Annual Conference.

Karen Funkenbusch, director/PI of the Missouri AgrAbility Project, and Debi Kelly, horticulture specialist, University of Missouri Extension, discussed MAP with attendees at the exhibit to bring awareness about farming or ranching with a disability to professionals, survivors, and family members.

## Nebraska

The veteran group that has a staff member representing Nebraska AgrAbility had a request to help a homeless veteran find housing and a job in a rural northeast Nebraska community. [More](#)



Staff members are working with Vocational Rehabilitation to help clients that are beginning to come off the order of selection waiting list within VR. It is going to be a busy fall and winter, and that is good!

The session for a Progressive Ag Safety Day(r) in Franklin, Nebraska, was a hit!

Rod (Nebraska AgrAbility) and Holly (assistive technology financing programs) stopped by Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) to celebrate 30 years of helping Nebraskans live more independently. [More](#)



Nebraska AgrAbility was represented at the Nebraska Safety Council conference where booths from many industries were featured. This was a good opportunity to educate managers from ag-related businesses about what AgrAbility offers.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) civil rights committee hosted a disability awareness/Hispanic heritage outreach event in October. Emily presented how AgrAbility helps overcome disabilities. [More](#)

Nebraska AgrAbility has been doing outreach projects with local Nebraska FFA programs. Wayne Ag and FFA used what they learned from AgrAbility staff and created "First Aid for Farmers". [More](#)



## New Mexico

The Mandy's Farm AgrAbility farm apprentices sold fresh veggies and value-added farm products they created at the annual Harvest Festival, Saturday October 2, held at the main campus on Clark St. [More](#)

## North Carolina



October 1, NC AgrAbility held its quarterly meeting at the Veterans Healing Farm in Hendersonville, NC. At this meeting, partners discussed goals, objectives, and activities for the following four years. [More](#)

October 8, staff provided training in Goldsboro, NC, to the Whitaker Farm Group on "How to Prevent Injuries While Working in the Farm or Garden." Fifteen farmers received the training and enrolled in the NC AgrAbility listserv.

North Carolina was the Spotlight State at the Sunbelt Ag EXPO October 15-17 in Moultrie, Georgia. "From the Mountain to the Sea" was the theme of the NC display where organizations like NCDA, NC Grange, Farm Bureau, and NC Cooperative Extension showcased some of their programs. [More](#)



JAC Farm had a Demo Day October 22 in Warrenton, NC, and invited NC AgrAbility to present information about the program and show tools to help farmers overcome challenges while gardening and farming. [More](#)



October 17-27, the College of Ag and Environmental Sciences at NCA&T exhibited at the 2019 NC State Fair and allowed NC AgrAbility to share information about the program with the thousands of people who visited the booth. [More](#)

---

## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility farmers were making news in October. Ohio AgrAbility farmer Buddy Myers hosted OAP staff, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (state VR), [More](#)

Another Ohio AgrAbility farmer, Len Vonderhaar, was interviewed by a local TV station, and demonstrated how a lift helped him get in and out of his tractor so he could keep farming. See both articles/videos in the "AgrAbility in the News" section of this e-Note.



Two Ohio State fraternities held fundraisers and donated the proceeds to Ohio AgrAbility. Delta Theta Sigma held a flag football game, and Alpha Gamma Rho held a car smash. [More](#)

Ohio AgrAbility staff presented "Gardening as We Age" to a group of Master Gardeners and community members in Somerset, Ohio. The attendees appreciated the information and had good questions and helpful insights and suggestions on how they have modified their gardening practices as they age.



---

## Pennsylvania



Regional Workshop: Oct 8-9. This two-day workshop was a great opportunity to learn more about occupational therapy and assistive technology on the farm - working together to keep farmers farming! [More](#)

The Pennsylvania Capitol became a one-stop resource for people living with physical and cognitive disabilities as a multitude of public and

private providers gathered in the main rotunda for State Senator Christine Tartaglione's annual Disability Awareness Day in Harrisburg.

[More](#)



AgrAbility partnered with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation for a presentation during the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. [More](#)

Project Assistant Abbie Spackman shared AgrAbility information with over 300 delegates during the PA Grange Annual Convention. The event was held in State College, PA, and was attended by Grange members from across the state. [More](#)

---

## Tennessee



TNAP team met with Warriors ReEntry Ranch, an innovative agritherapy program, to help struggling veterans rediscover their purpose. [More](#)

TNAP exhibited at annual UTIA Ag Day, Tennessee Cattlemen's Association Ames Fall Field Day, and TN Association of Rescue Squads Annual Conference October 2019. The latter was an educational grain bin rescue demonstration and conference.

Dr. Deborah Reed, ag nurse, presented in the webinar series "Seven Habits for Effective Farmers" about farm safety and stress management. Materials and recordings from previous sessions are available online [here](#).

Farm Again GA did an amazing job hosting the AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station at the 2019 Sunbelt Ag Expo. [More](#)

TNAP exhibited at the Resource ABILITY Assistive Technology Fair in Nashville, Clarksville, and Paris. TN AgrAbility and Life Essentials demonstrated assistive technology for farms and outdoor mobility in Nashville. [More](#)

TN Ag Literacy Week (November 17-23) was celebrated by TNAP staff by reading to a class of kindergartners at Grand Junction Elementary from the book Creepy Carrots. [More](#)



---

## Texas



Texas AgrAbility launched three interactive web forums for sharing information and resources and connecting clients with one another. The forum areas are "Texas Agriculture Health," "Veterans in Agriculture," and "Hispanic and Migrant Farmers." You can join the forums [here](#).

Applications for the next cohort of BattleGround to Breaking Ground are now open and will close on December 6. The program offers a tuition-based and tuition waived track for veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. [More](#)



The next BattleGround to Breaking Ground Ag Business workshop will be held on December 6 in Belton. Partnering with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county agent, topic areas covered will include rural business ideas, business planning basics, funding opportunities [More](#)



Staff created a short video introduction of Texas AgrAbility for dissemination on the website and in educational modules. The video highlights client stories and services provided by AgrAbility. View the video here.

A Veteran's Day news story from AgriLife Today will highlight Texas AgrAbility and BattleGround to Breaking Ground's work with veterans in agriculture. [More](#)

A new blog post was created by Texas AgrAbility staff on tips to manage stress during the holidays. Check out the blog post here.

---

## Utah

Program Coordinator Randall Bagley attended the Roads to Independence staff meeting on October 17 and presented the AgrAbility of Utah program. Roads to Independence is one of six independent living centers in Utah and is located in Ogden.

AgrAbility of Utah Outreach Coordinator Darlene Carlisle attended and networked at the Utah Primary Care Summit in Salt Lake City on October 18. [More](#)

Randall Bagley presented at the Cache Interagency Council monthly meeting on October 28 in Logan, Utah, and explained the AgrAbility program. [More](#)

---

## Staff Changes and Recognition

### New Mexico

Congratulations to Carla Wilhite, OTD, OTR/L for receiving a prestigious award from the American Occupational Therapy Association. Carla has been named to the Roster of Fellows. The AOTA Roster of Fellows recognizes occupational therapists who, through their knowledge, expertise, leadership, advocacy, and guidance, have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupation therapy or members of the Association. The award is based on her exemplary education and research for agricultural workers. The award will be presented at the annual awards and recognition ceremony during the AOTA Annual Conference being held in Boston.



### Pennsylvania



AgrAbility PA is excited to share news about the project's leadership team! Dr. Suzanna Windon and Linda Fetzer will serve in new leadership roles on the project's Penn State University team. Windon will serve as project director and principal investigator - managing overall project development and execution of AgrAbility PA. Fetzer will serve as project manager and co-principal investigator - managing the tracking, assessment, and



support for the overall project initiatives. [More](#)

Welcome, Suzanna and Linda, to your new roles!

After more than 25 years with AgrAbility PA, Dr. Connie Baggett will retire effective Dec. 31. He will continue to serve as project advisor until then.

### Tennessee



#### RETIREMENT NEWS:

TNAP wanted to update you on some changes taking place in Tennessee. Tim Prather will be retiring on 12/31/2019 after more than 36 1/2 years of service with University of Tennessee Extension. If you would like to send well wishes or old photos or video via email

for his retirement party by December 2nd, please send to [AgrAbility@tennessee.edu](mailto:AgrAbility@tennessee.edu).  
[MORE](#)

---

### AgrAbility in the News

**Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects.**

- [Farm accident survivors' information day to be held next week](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
  - [Georgia program which assist farmers with disabilities and health conditions](#) (AgrAbility in Georgia)
  - [Preble County farmer won't miss his 58th harvest thanks to special piece of equipment](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
  - [Nothing will stop 74-year-old Buddy Myers from working on the farm!](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
  - [AGRABILITY UNLIMITED: About one in the morning](#) (Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited)
  - [Rise in Farmer Deaths](#) (AgrAbility of Utah)
  - [A Lifetime of Farming Continues in Duncan Falls](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
  - [Advocating for accessibility](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
  - [AgrAbility national training workshop for farmers, ranchers offers travel stipends](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
  - [AgrAbility Helps People with Disabilities Stay in Ag Industry](#) (AgrAbility of Utah)
  - [2020 AgrAbility National Training Workshop Farmer Stipends](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
  - [Buddy Myers is back in the saddle, so to speak](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
  - [WILS Looking for Individuals to Partake in Ag Training](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
  - [Texas A&M AgriLife programs serve those who served their country](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
  - [Local program gives farmers tools to continue work despite disabilities](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
  - [Spring 2020 Battleground to Breaking Ground cohort now taking applications](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
  - [USDA Rolls Out Agrability Program](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
  - [Washington State University Lands Agrability Grant](#) (Washington State AgrAbility Project)
  - [AgrAbility Helps Ag Workers with Disabilities](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
-

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

- Tennessee Farmer Suicide Prevention Day, Wednesday, October 16th, was established by a Joint House Resolution (No. 506) and signed by Governor Lee. Thank you to the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative in consultation with the TN Farmers Suicide Prevention Taskforce for raising awareness!
- [USDA honors 25 years of tribal land-grant universities](#)
- [Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network launches](#)
- [AAW launches Women Heroes of Science & Technology](#)
- [Farm Workforce Modernization Act introduced](#)
- [\(1890s\) Scholars program provides funding opportunity](#)
- [USDA launches economic development hubs](#)
- [USDA opens enrollment for ARC, PLC programs](#)
- [Measuring farm financial stress](#)
- [From tragedy to triumph: Jacob and the tractor](#)
- [Farmers in Idaho rallied to harvest a neighbor's potatoes as a deep freeze threatened to ruin them](#)

---

## UpcomingEvents

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

---

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

Copyright © 2019 Purdue University  
An equal access/equal opportunity university. All rights reserved.



November 2019

## National AgrAbility Project

Registration is open for the Regional Workshop in Davis, CA, on December 3-4, at the Mondavi Sensory Theatre. The regional event in Davis will focus on how occupational therapists, physical therapists, and other rehabilitation professionals can collaborate with AgrAbility, working with the issues of migrant farmworkers and collaborating with other partners such as DOR and the centers for agricultural safety and health. The second day will feature a tour of some local agricultural businesses and a migrant center.

The closest hotel to the Mondavi Sensory Theater is the Hyatt UC Davis. More information about the workshop and registration can be found [HERE](#).

---

The Regional Workshop in State College, PA, had a wonderful turnout last month. There were 36 attendees from five different states. Presentations were insightful and covered topics on OT, AT, funding, and resources. Copies of these sessions can be found on the [AgrAbility PA website](#). The second day, attendees went offsite to a sheep/goat farm, where staff were able to talk about potential modifications to make chores easier for the farmer, and the farmer and attendees had a chance to try out some tracked chairs. There was also a presentation during lunch at The [Smokey Pig](#) from a female veteran who now runs a tea business called [The Skirted Soldier](#). After lunch, the tour visited [Hands On Therapeutic Riding Program](#). Thank you to all who attended and to those who helped make this workshop a great success!

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

---

In September, the USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach announced that the [Peoples Foundation](#) in California with partners [National AgrAbility Project](#) (NAP) and Legacy Farming and Health Group (LFHG) in Indiana had been awarded a three-year Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers grant (also known as a 2501 grant). The primary purpose of the grant is to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agricultural programs and services provided by the USDA. The name of the new project in which the NAP is a partner is the LIFE (Legacy Innovation Farming Economics) Project. This project will allow the NAP to increase its outreach to veteran and minority farmers and ranchers, help provide funding for farmer/rancher stipends to the NTW for these agricultural groups, and give NAP staff valuable experience in working as a partner with other groups serving socially disadvantaged agricultural communities.

---

November 1-2, Chuck Baldwin, National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, participated in the 29th annual conference of the National Black Farmers Association in Prattville, Alabama, as a presenter and exhibitor. More than 500 people, most of them African American farmers, attended the meetings and festivities.



The theme of the conference was "ReClaiming, ReGaining, and ReGenerating Our Farms." In addition to a wide variety of speakers from USDA organizations like AgrAbility, FSA, and NRCS, video greetings were conveyed by Secretary of



Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and the keynote speaker was Rohan Marley, son of reggae artist and legend, Bob Marley.

Rohan Marley is an entrepreneur and former football player for the University of Miami Hurricanes and the Canadian professional football league. He is the founder (2009) of Marley Coffee, an organic coffee plantation and sustainable farming business. In 2012, Marley founded the "House of Marley," a range of eco-friendly headphones and stereo speakers which are currently top sellers at such major consumer electronic stores as Best Buy, PC Richards, Verizon, and others. Rohan is also the founder of "Lion Order by Rohan Marley," a cannabis and CBD line of products to begin distribution in Colorado and eventually other states beginning in 2020.

Chuck Baldwin's AgrAbility address compared AgrAbility to a good marriage partner for the times in a farmer's/rancher's life when things get tough as a result of a disability or functional limitation. He shared that during those times, a partner is needed who gives respect, who will sit down at the kitchen table and listen before speaking, who doesn't see the person before them as any less capable because they have a limitation, and who believes that by putting their heads together they can come up with solutions that will improve the farmer's quality of life and keep them doing what they love to do for as long as possible. Baldwin explained how AgrAbility can be that partner.



Also attending the NBFA conference were eight members of the LIFE Project in which the NAP is a partner. Legacy Farming and Health Group founder John Jamerson, an African American farmer from Princeton, Indiana, and a member of the historically significant Lyle's Station group of Black farmers, was there with his wife Denise, son DeAnthony, and brother TJ.

Tameka Peoples, founder and president of the Peoples Foundation was also there, as were Jettie Townsend (Haven Trust) and his daughter, Andrommeda, and Gabriel MontReynaud (Pangea Farms). Chuck was able to meet with these partners for the first time face-to-face to discuss work plans, challenges, and opportunities with the LIFE Project - a definite bonus to all that took place with the NBFA conference.

Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

November 2019

## California

California AgrAbility had a booth at the 29th Annual Celebration of Farmworker Day in Gridley located in Butte County. The event brought together state, county, and local agencies such as the Department of Pesticide Regulation, University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource Services, Legal Services of Northern California, and more. This event rotates between three Northern California counties each year to reach various farmworking communities.



California AgrAbility conducted outreach at the UC Davis Disability Symposium and Technology Fair on the UC Davis main campus. Staff showcased ergonomic gardening tools to students, staff, and faculty. The symposium session highlighted software applications that can be used to help those living with a disability. Otter was a well-received app that changes speech to text and was even able to pick up the speaker from quite a distance away.



Staff presented AgrAbility at the San Mateo Abilities Expo with their partner agency, Ability Tools, which brought at-home living assistive tools for attendees to learn about devices that could make day to day task easier while living with a disability. Staff was able to showcase ergonomic gardening tools while educating attendees on the risk of chronic illness caused by repetitive motion. The Bahco hand pruners were a huge hit, with many attendees showing tremendous interest in trying and purchasing the tool for their gardening activities.

Hamid Fonooni, director of the ergonomics program in the UC Davis Occupational Health Services Department, presented on ergonomics for the UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department. He emphasized the danger of being static. Every 20 minutes a muscle does not move, the muscle essentially is cut off from oxygen and nutrients. This slowly damages the muscle which causes chronic illnesses such as carpal tunnel. He encouraged attendees to move every 20-30 minutes, while also reducing highly repetitive motion.



Submitted by Sara Wat

November 2019

## Colorado



At month's end, CAP staff were invited to attend a suicide prevention listening session hosted by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. The facilitator gathered a group of stakeholders in both agriculture and mental health services. For about two hours, staff participated in an open forum conversation about how to reach men in ag within the most rural communities. It seemed to be the consensus that male farmers/ranchers are best approached through their women. Delivery methods such as telehealth and costs of access were discussed and seen as barriers. Cultural awareness of providers was also cited as an issue of importance. Further, the need to find local centers of influence in each community was thought to be of value. It was clear that the stakeholders that were not invited should be included inasmuch as they are funded to do this type of outreach and treatment provision piece. These parties include the Office of Suicide Prevention, the Colorado Coalition of Behavior Health Providers, the Colorado Crisis Center, and the Suicide Prevention Coalition. They will be included in the next series of meetings. Staff are hopeful that these meetings will develop deliverables that have a measurable positive impact on suicide.

Submitted by Jim Craig

November 2019

## Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility staff attended the 2019 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition located in Moultrie, Georgia, October 15-17. This is North America's premier farm show with over 1,200 vendors participating. Georgia AgrAbility was represented at the expo as The AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station. The exposition was



a success as staff engaged with many farmers while discussing AgrAbility information, assistive technologies, and how to become a client. Staff were able to identify those who would benefit from AgrAbility services, two in total. While at the expo, staff were also able to see other AgrAbility projects: Tennessee and North Carolina. Tennessee AgrAbility joined The AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station as an exhibitor during the time of the exposition.



2019

---

October 29, Georgia AgrAbility staff presented two sessions, "Farming with a Disability" and "Universal Designed Learning", at the 2019 Georgia Association of People Supporting Employment First (GAPSE) Conference. This conference helps train professionals that are committed to equitable employment for people with disabilities.

Submitted by Rebecca Brightwell



November 2019

## Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility Rural Rehabilitation Specialist Steve Swain attended the third annual Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Brain Injury and Resource Facilitation Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference is a partnership of the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana, Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and Indiana University Health. The conference is designed to provide the latest on brain injury research, resource facilitation, and resources available for brain injuries, and to recognize VR counselors, service providers, and businesses supporting individuals with brain injuries. Indiana AgrAbility staffed an exhibit providing information on AgrAbility resources and services. Indiana AgrAbility partner, INDATA - the Indiana Tech Act Project, was recognized for its contribution and services provided for those with brain injuries. Brian Norton, INDATA project manager, accepted the award for the project.

---

Indiana AgrAbility attended and exhibited at the Purdue Extension agriculture and natural resources educator fall retreat held at the Beck Center on the Purdue Agronomy Farm. The retreat and exhibit provided an opportunity for AgrAbility staff to make contacts with extension educators and educate about AgrAbility services.

Submitted by Steve Swain

November 2019

## Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility (KAP) and the Western AT Access Site co-hosted Ag Demonstration Day on October 10 from 10:00- 3:00. Eleven vendors participated and 55 farmers, ranchers, and family members attended. Four VR counselors accompanied six farmers and ranchers they were serving so they had the chance to see possible equipment modifications in action. Highlighted speakers included Kathy Smith, Life Essentials, who provided anecdotes and demonstrations of adapted equipment, and the precision agriculture team from Northwest Kansas Technical School who highlighted current and experimental uses of drone technology. A KAP customer who is operating drones from his accessible truck to check crops and cattle shared some of his own experiences. A 14-year-old KAP client volunteered to demonstrate his Firefly, a device he attaches to his manual wheelchair to save his shoulders when traveling longer distances or over more challenging terrain. Additional time was allowed to visit with the vendors and enjoy a hot lunch provided by the Western AT Site staff. Several vendors noted that they had the chance to learn how to highlight critical features of their equipment that could meet the needs of people with health issues or disabilities after visiting with KAP staff and customers. VR counselors noted the event gave them information to help them better advocate for higher cost modifications.



---

Twenty-six occupational therapists from northeast Kansas participated in a three-hour workshop that focused on helping patients participate in rural life after rehab hosted by Stormont Vail Hospital. KAP staff shared case studies of three KAP customers (one with quadriplegia, one with a traumatic brain injury, and one with joint deterioration and arthritis) and the solutions they used to return to their role in production agriculture. KAP staff obtained CEUs for the event with the cooperation of the KS Occupational Therapy Association.

Submitted by Sheila Simmons

November 2019

## Maine

Maine AgrAbility is pleased to announce that several new videos have been finalized and added to its website resource list. Three videos were developed specifically to illustrate safe techniques and reminders for stretching, harvesting, and lifting. This resource can be used by anyone involved in agricultural tasks. They were produced in coordination with Master Gardener volunteers involved in gleaning projects in southern Maine. Readers can view them by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, staff have developed three other videos and one summary video to share success stories and the possibilities of working in production agriculture with a disability. The goal was to provide inspiration and illustrations of how farmers and fisherman worked through their limitations and used a network of resources and assistive technologies to continue working in production agriculture in Maine. View them [here](#).

Ellen Gibson presented "Gardening & Ergonomics" to two separate groups this month: once for Department of Transportation employees at the Maine Safety & Health Conference in Augusta, and also for the Mid Coast Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting in Brunswick. She and Marie DeFranca also exhibited Maine AgrAbility information and assistive tools at the Garden Club Federation of Maine annual conference in Augusta.



After many months of prep work, Maine AgrAbility hosted the first annual Educate to Cultivate (E2C) Business Development and Assistive Technology Symposium for Military Veterans in Agriculture in Augusta. The E2C symposium was for military veterans and their partners involved in agriculture or for those veterans who desire to learn more about safely and successfully running their own business in agriculture. The morning events partnered business mentors from SCORE and the Small Business Development Center with veterans for one-on-one sessions. There was a financial cash flow workshop

to help understand and deliberately plan for profit with or without VA disability compensation payments. The afternoon sessions featured available resources, stretches for stress management, understanding brain injuries and memory issues, and a showcase of assistive technologies. There was also a resource fair featuring organizations that provide services for veterans. Thirty-five veteran farmers and partners and 12 vendors participated in this inaugural event.



Submitted by Lani Carlson

November 2019

## Michigan



At the annual Champions Ceremony held in Lansing, MI, the Michigan Council of Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and @Michigan Career and Technical Institute honored the Michigan AgrAbility program as a statewide partner that has demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities. Serving farmers and their families so they can continue working and providing for

their families is a pleasure. Accepting the award were representatives of Easterseals Michigan (Denise Durkee and Jeff Camboia) and Michigan AgrAbility (Ned Stoller).

---

Frank Tomack, who farms near Chesaning, helps install and retrofit AT for AgrAbility clients' occupancy. Along with row crops, Frank's family raises twenty acres of pumpkins and gourds with over 270 varieties! Many are heirlooms or rare and come from all over the world where the growing zone is like Michigan's. What began as a 4-H project has opened the gate for another family member to be on the farm. Thank You Frank!



---

Michigan citizens elected a new governor in 2018 ... and with a new governor comes departmental reorganization. Michigan now has a Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) that houses several state departments, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), which moved from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. With the new LEO comes new websites, including a new MRS webpage. The new webpage has a link for [MRS Farm Rehabilitation](#) and highlights the partnership with Michigan AgrAbility; the webpage includes a link to the Michigan AgrAbility webpage to assist individuals looking for assistance.

Submitted by Deb Chester



November 2019

## Missouri



Missouri AgrAbility staff from the University of Missouri Extension exhibited smart technologies and demonstrated ergonomic tools to farmers and farm families. Staff members also handed out farmer stress and MO AgrAbility information, as well as vaping and opioid resources, at the Chestnut Roast Festival in New Franklin, Missouri, October 5. In addition to

Kathy Bowman, who provided an exhibit about opioids from MU Nursing Outreach, Liz Harrison from Howard County Extension set up an exhibit about nutrition, and Cherry Hill Family Medicine provided free health screenings.

Submitted by: Karen Funkenbusch

Kelly Cochran, PharmD, BCPS, a Missouri AgrAbility collaborative partner, facilitated the October Missouri AgrAbility Collaborative Team monthly Zoom teleconference. Core team members discussed upcoming events, current progress, coordination opportunities, budget considerations, and new partnerships.

Submitted by: Kelly Cochran

Lincoln University's Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP) in collaboration with the University of Missouri has been busy throughout the month of October. David Middleton, Lincoln University Cooperative ISFOP, spoke at the annual Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Conference held in St. Louis, MO, October 3-4. Using the Jesup Wagon 2.0 outreach method of teaching, David highlighted Missouri AgrAbility and discussed how smart farm technologies, low-cost technologies, ergonomic tools, and assistive technologies are designed to assist with day-to-day operations on the farm.



Submitted by Shon Bishop

The Missouri Occupational Therapy Association Conference included a "Brain Injury Causes, Impact and Resources" presentation by BIA-MO Speakers Bureau volunteer Kathleen Winkleman. Ms. Winkleman gave an overview of brain injury for rural and urban occupational therapists, and available resources, including the Missouri AgrAbility Project. This presentation took place October 25.



The BIA-MO 15th Annual Professional Development Conference featured the Missouri AgrAbility Project as a track sponsor with recognition throughout the three-day educational program for professionals, survivors of brain injury, and family members. Approximately 350 individuals increased their awareness about the Missouri AgrAbility Project through presentation content, an exhibit, and event signage.

Submitted by: Maureen Cunningham

November 2019

## Nebraska

The veteran group that has a staff member representing Nebraska AgrAbility had a request to help a homeless veteran find housing and a job in a rural northeast Nebraska community. AgrAbility worked to help find him a position at the local coop, while the Community Action Partnership helped with housing and utilities for the moment. The veterans service coordinator also helped to solve his problem of getting medical service within the VA. This veteran is now working toward full employment with this company and enjoying learning about his new community.

Rod (Nebraska AgrAbility) and Holly (assistive technology financing programs) stopped by Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) to celebrate 30 years of helping Nebraskans live more independently. Whether it be experiencing assistive technology in action, partnering to re-distribute used equipment, or coordinating funding options, ATP is an excellent resource for both short-term and long-term assistive technology needs in Nebraska.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) civil rights committee hosted a disability awareness/Hispanic heritage outreach event in October. Emily presented how AgrAbility helps overcome disabilities. There were over 35 individuals in attendance and many questions were asked. They were very interested in learning about the technology available to those with disabilities. Many took brochures with them to give to potential clients.

Nebraska AgrAbility has been doing outreach projects with local Nebraska FFA programs. Wayne Ag and FFA used what they learned from AgrAbility staff and created "First Aid for Farmers". They were recognized at the National FFA Convention in Indiana. Unfortunately, they could not be at the convention, but they definitely deserve the recognition! Congratulations again to the Wayne Ag & FFA members! What a wonderful project! Nebraska AgrAbility looks forward to working with more FFA programs in the future.



Submitted by Susan Harris-Broomfield

November 2019

## **New Mexico**

The Mandy's Farm AgrAbility farm apprentices sold fresh veggies and value-added farm products they created at the annual Harvest Festival, Saturday October 2, held at the main campus on Clark St. The apprentices put in hours of work to grow mini-pumpkins and pie pumpkins for the event, as well as creating sachets, lotions, packaged vermi-compost, and pricing all the items for sale. This event finished the farm market season for the group. Winter activities will be directed toward learning farm maintenance tasks, business budgeting, and growing mushrooms.

Submitted by Carla Wilhite

November 2019

## North Carolina



October 1, NC AgrAbility held its quarterly meeting at the Veterans Healing Farm in Hendersonville, NC. At this meeting, partners discussed goals, objectives, and activities for the following four years. At the same time, partners and collaborators had a chance to network and receive a tour led by John Mahshie, the founder and executive director of Veterans Healing Farm. It was really a great experience to learn about the wisdom behind this great resource for



veterans who want to engage in farming.



North Carolina was the Spotlight State at the Sunbelt Ag EXPO October 15-17 in Moultrie, Georgia. "From the Mountain to the Sea" was the theme of the NC display where organizations like NCDA, NC Grange, Farm Bureau, and NC Cooperative Extension showcased some of their programs. NC AgrAbility was included and had



the opportunity to share program information with thousands of people and get together with colleagues from Tennessee and Georgia AgrAbility.



JAC Farm had a Demo Day October 22 in Warrenton, NC, and invited NC AgrAbility to present information about the program and show tools to help farmers overcome challenges while gardening and farming. County Cooperative Extension and Vocational Rehabilitation were also part of the event, presenting their programs to about 40 attendants.



October 17-27, the College of Ag and Environmental Sciences at NCA&T exhibited at the 2019 NC State Fair and allowed NC AgrAbility to share information about the program with the thousands of people who visited the booth. There is a lot of Aggie pride in the community and staff were able to encourage the new generation to pursue agricultural



careers while teaching the rural community that it is possible to make farming safer and more enjoyable, even when dealing with a disability.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

November 2019

## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility farmers were making news in October. Ohio AgrAbility farmer Buddy Myers hosted OAP staff, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (state VR), Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati (OAP non-profit partner), two local news stations, and OAP staff at his farm to show how Ohio AgrAbility has helped him continue to farm.



Two Ohio State fraternities held fundraisers and donated the proceeds to Ohio AgrAbility. Delta Theta Sigma held a flag football game, and Alpha Gamma Rho held a car smash. Both events were successful, despite being held on a rainy, chilly Saturday morning. Ohio AgrAbility is very grateful for their support and looks forward to collaborating with them on future events.

Submitted by Laura Akgerman



November 2019

## Pennsylvania



Regional Workshop: Oct 8-9. This two-day workshop was a great opportunity to learn more about occupational therapy and assistive technology on the farm - working together to keep farmers farming! Thanks to all who attended! Thanks to JoBeth and Tess from the [National AgrAbility Project](#)/Goodwill of the Finger Lakes for their leadership in pulling this workshop together.



The first day included sessions and a farmer panel. Thank you to the many speakers who shared their experiences of working with farmers with disabilities or long-term health conditions. On the second day, attendees spent the day touring, learning, and experiencing different types of agricultural operations throughout Pennsylvania, including talking with Jim, a farmer diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS); testing out [Action TrackChairs](#) as a means for mobility around farmland, barns, and more; Rhonda Smith of [The Skirted Soldier](#), a female veteran-owned operation that specializes in hand blended, loose tea; and [Hands On Therapeutic Riding Program](#). Many thanks to everyone who opened their doors -- barns and all!



[WORKSHOP SESSION PRESENTATIONS](#) are available to download by clicking on the title.

---

The Pennsylvania Capitol became a one-stop resource for people living with physical and cognitive disabilities as a multitude of public and private providers gathered in the main rotunda for State Senator Christine Tartaglione's annual Disability Awareness Day in Harrisburg. Legislators and visitors to the Capitol met with staff from AgrAbility PA to learn more about those working in agriculture who have a disability or long-term health conditions. Exhibitors including AgrAbility PA shared information about assistive services and technologies to kick off National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Pennsylvania during October. The observance calls attention to disability employment issues and celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities.



---

AgrAbility partnered with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation for a presentation during the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. The session focused on resources and education for funding assistive technology devices. Over 30 service providers from across the state attended the event.

---

Project Assistant Abbie Spackman shared AgrAbility information with over 300 delegates during the PA Grange Annual Convention. The event was held in State College, PA, and was attended by Grange members from across the state. The Grange is a family and community organization with roots in agriculture that was founded in 1867. Their mission: "The Grange strengthens individuals, families and

communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness."

## STAFF CHANGES

AgrAbility PA is excited to share news about the project's leadership team! Dr. Suzanna Windon and Linda Fetzer will serve in new leadership roles on the project's Penn State University team.



Windon will serve as project director and principal investigator - managing overall project development and execution of AgrAbility PA. Windon has experience with AgrAbility as she assisted with assessment research during her graduate work at Ohio State University. In addition, she is an assistant professor of youth & adult leadership in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education at Penn State University. Her research interests include: adult & youth, community, and volunteer leadership development and needs assessment research and evaluation.

Fetzer will serve as project manager and co-principal investigator - managing the tracking, assessment, and support for the overall project initiatives. In addition, Fetzer has worked in agricultural safety and health for more than 20 years with Penn State Extension. Her current responsibilities include: educational and programming support for various ag safety and health projects, worker protection standard (WPS), eXtension/AgSafety Community of Practice, and Safety in Agriculture for Youth/SAY Clearinghouse.



After more than 25 years with AgrAbility PA, Dr. Connie Baggett will retire effective Dec. 31. He will continue to serve as Project Advisor until then.

Suzanna and Linda both plan to attend the 2020 NTW in Wisconsin and are looking forward to connecting (and re-connecting!) with AgrAbility colleagues. Welcome, Suzanna and Linda, to your new roles! [AgrAbility PA Team](#)

Submitted by Abbie Spackman

November 2019

## Tennessee



TNAP team met with Warriors ReEntry Ranch, an innovative agritherapy program, to help struggling veterans rediscover their purpose. The planned facility offers specialized care for PTSD, trauma, mental health illness, and addiction. They are looking for funding and partners nationwide. Reach out on

Facebook "[Warrior Reentry Ranch](#)" or [warriorsreentryranch.com](http://warriorsreentryranch.com).

Farm Again GA did an amazing job hosting the AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station at the 2019 Sunbelt Ag Expo. Staff highlighted the latest in technology that can make farming and gardening task a little easier. TN AgrAbility had a table display and demos of low-cost assistive technology at 2019 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

TNAP exhibited at the Resource ABILITY Assistive Technology Fair in Nashville, Clarksville, and Paris. TN AgrAbility and Life Essentials demonstrated assistive technology for farms and outdoor mobility in Nashville. Thanks to keynote Liz Persuad for sharing her story! It was a great day networking with partners and rehab counselors with Vocational Rehabilitation(VR). TN Department of Human Services hosted a very informational event to introduce educators, employers, and others to new technology that helps individuals with disabilities live their lives.

TN Ag Literacy Week (November 17-23) was celebrated by TNAP staff by reading to a class of kindergartners at Grand Junction Elementary from the book Creepy Carrots. It was also career day, and the class learned about the AgrAbility project and how AgrAbility helps farmers who have a disability. Lots of questions and stories.



## STAFF CHANGES

### RETIREMENT NEWS:



TNAP wanted to update you on some changes taking place in Tennessee. Tim Prather will be retiring on 12/31/2019 after more than 36 1/2 years of service with University of Tennessee Extension. If you would like to send well wishes or old photos or video via email for his retirement party by December 2nd, please send to [AgrAbility@tennessee.edu](mailto:AgrAbility@tennessee.edu).

Tim began his career on April 25, 1983, as the farm safety specialist for University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service in the Agricultural Engineering Department. A lot has changed since that date, and his roles have included educational programs for farm safety, precision agriculture, disaster education, and energy. We are proud of what TNAP has accomplished for the benefit of Tennessee farmers and residents, and we know Tim has made a difference. It isn't always easy to document those changes, but we do the best we can.

Extension has been a rewarding career for Tim. He said he will miss much that it offered professionally and personally. He has friends all over the country through the many Extension programs that he has been involved in. He has had the opportunity to host several national conferences in Tennessee. Plus, he has

submitted several successful funding proposals that funded over \$6 million in Extension programming since 1991.

Look for Tim at future NTWs. He will play a vital role on the TNAP advisory team and the National 4-H GIS/GPS Leadership Team advisory group. He plans to continue gaining knowledge at ag research field days and Extension programs and maybe even become a beekeeper and Master Gardener.

We immensely appreciate ALL Tim has done for TN AgrAbility for the past 25 years with his dedicated leadership and service to the institute and university and wish him a very fulfilling life in retirement.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

November 2019

## Texas

Applications for the next cohort of BattleGround to Breaking Ground are now open and will close on December 6. The program offers a tuition-based and tuition waived track for veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. The course work includes business planning education, ag production education, and hands-on mentorship. Visit the website [HERE](#) for more information and details to apply.



The next BattleGround to Breaking Ground Ag Business workshop will be held on December 6 in Belton. Partnering with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county agent, topic areas covered will include rural business ideas, business planning basics, funding opportunities and sources, veteran and beginning farmer resources, and possibilities for farming and ranching with a disability. Check out the event [here](#).

A Veteran's Day news story from AgriLife Today will highlight Texas AgrAbility and BattleGround to Breaking Ground's work with veterans in agriculture. The story includes Texas AgrAbility client Chris Pogue who received a farm assessment for his bison, vegetable, and pastured pig and poultry operation.

Submitted by Makenzie McLaurin Thomas



**November 2019**

## **Utah**

AgrAbility of Utah Outreach Coordinator Darlene Carlisle attended and networked at the Utah Primary Care Summit in Salt Lake City on October 18. The summit's main goals are to lower health care costs, increase the quality of care, and improve population health outcomes. This event discussed primary care solutions for Utah's priority health concerns and was attended by over 130 people.

---

Randall Bagley presented at the Cache Interagency Council monthly meeting on October 28 in Logan, Utah, and explained the AgrAbility program. The mission of the Cache Interagency Council is to unite service organizations in sharing ideas, upcoming events, and ongoing services, thus producing a spirit of unity and cooperation among the participating organizations.

Submitted by

November 2019

## Upcoming Events

- Name** Farmer Veteran Coalition Lone Star Stripes 2019 Stakeholders Conference  
**Dates** November 17-20, 2019  
**City, State** Austin, Texas  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://conference.farmvetco.org/>
- Name** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium: AK Environmental Conference  
**Dates** November 19-22, 2019  
**City, State** Anchorage, Alaska  
**Contact Info/Web link** <http://www.atcemak.com/>
- Name** 4th National Farm Viability Conference  
**Dates** November 22-24, 2019  
**City, State** Red Wing, Minnesota  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.farmviabilityconference.com/>
- Name** Heart of America Grazing Conference  
**Dates** November 29-30, 2019  
**City, State** Burlington, Kentucky  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/event/heart-america-grazing-conference-0>
- Name** Organic & Non-GMO Forum  
**Dates** November 29-30, 2019  
**City, State** Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://tinyurl.com/yyde59qy>
- Name** Missouri Livestock Symposium  
**Dates** December 6-7, 2019  
**City, State** Kirksville, Missouri  
**Contact** <http://www.missourilivestock.com/>

**Info/Web  
link**

**Name** 2019 Georgia Farm Bureau Convention

**Dates** December 8-10, 2019

**City, State** Jekyll Island, Georgia

**Contact** [https://www.gfb.org/media-and-publications/events.cms?](https://www.gfb.org/media-and-publications/events.cms?view=month&date=2019-12-15)

**Info/Web** [view=month&date=2019-12-15](https://www.gfb.org/media-and-publications/events.cms?view=month&date=2019-12-15)  
**link**

**Name** Twelfth Annual Winter Green-Up

**Dates** January 25, 2020

**City,  
State** Latham, New York

**Contact** <https://cpb-us->

**Info/Web** [e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/3/3955/files/2019/11/WGU\\_2020\\_brochure.pdf](https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/3/3955/files/2019/11/WGU_2020_brochure.pdf)  
**link**

**Name** Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show

**Dates** February 5-7, 2019

**City, State** San Antonio, Texas

**Contact** <https://convention.ncba.org/>

**Info/Web**  
**link**