

# AgrAbility e·Note

January 2020

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

## National AgrAbility Project News

AgrAbility funding for the current project year was confirmed at the end of 2019 by a Congressional appropriations agreement. Total program allotment was level at \$4.6 million.

Register soon for the 2020 AgrAbility VIRTUAL National Training Workshop. The six webinars on January 28-30 include several by AgrAbility staff members. Topics include low-tech AT, cultural humility, and programs for under-served audiences like veterans and minority farmers. Visit [www.agrability.org/online-training/virtualntw](http://www.agrability.org/online-training/virtualntw) for details.

Madison NTW Updates: Things "To Do" before the NTW

1. Register! Registration is open through the NTW website [HERE](#).
2. While on the NTW website, don't forget to check out the great [tours](#) that are planned (additional fee).
3. Make hotel reservations. Reservations may be made [HERE](#).
4. Register as an AgrAbility exhibitor. This is an option on the registration site. Please contact Tess McKeel if you have already registered online but would like to have an AgrAbility display.
5. Suggest vendors or sponsors. Information for both may be found by clicking on either option- [vendor](#) or [sponsor](#).
6. Put together your State Raffle Basket. The State raffle baskets have been a hit the last two years. Put together a basket with items from your state or any theme that you would like and let's see whose basket gets the most tickets.
7. Solicit auction items. Several auction items are needed to help support the cost of NTW farmer guests. Items may be mailed ahead of time, if need be, to Amanda Harguth / 460 Henry Mall, Room B20 / Madison, WI 53706. Please indicate that it is for the NTW and also include the [item description form](#).
8. Start thinking about the snacks you would like to share for the Hospitality Suite.



If you have any questions, contact anytime.

Tess McKeel - [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org) - 585.447.9015

Or JoBeth Rath - [jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org) - 585.402.2059

The recording of the December 9 all-staff meeting is now available at [www.agrability.org/extranet/staff-resources](http://www.agrability.org/extranet/staff-resources) along with the telemedicine presentation file.

## Toolbox Spotlight



Built to fit category 2 and 3 tractors from 80 to 160 hp, the [Rear-Mounted Tipping Transport Box](#), with detachable tailgate, is designed to allow one to dig, scoop, scrape, level, spread, and/or haul all types of material weighing up to 600 pounds (depending on model).

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### State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

#### Alaska

On December 3-5, Alaska AgrAbility staff attended the statewide 2019 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Provider's Conference in Anchorage. [More](#)

In December, a staff member from Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) attended a Farm & Food Meeting in Kenai, Alaska. [More](#)

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#### California

California AgrAbility hosted the AgrAbility Regional Workshop in Davis, CA. The conference had over 30 attendees from various states and agencies including the CA Department of Rehabilitation and Ability Tools. [More](#)



Clinica Tepati, a free student-run clinic in Sacramento, conducted a train-the-trainer for their exercise class. [More](#)



California AgrAbility staffed a booth at the Small Farm Tech Expo in Santa Rosa, CA. Hosted by Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and Farmers Guild, the Small Farm Tech Expo was the first exposition to introduce farm technology from around the state and private industry specifically for small farmers. [More](#)

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#### Colorado

December was the month for professional development. Colorado AgrAbility, in partnership with CSU Extension, hosted an agricultural suicide prevention one-day workshop featuring noted ag psychologist Mike Rosmann from Iowa. It was attended by 53 local professionals.



Later in the month, staff attended a local eastern plains workshop put on in Sterling, CO, by the Livestock Commission. In attendance were 27 ag professionals from the surrounding communities.

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#### Georgia

December 8-9, Georgia AgrAbility staff attended the 82nd Annual Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Conference hosted in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The conference was a great way for farmers to come together to celebrate achievements and to discuss the state's largest economic sector: [More](#)



Georgia AgrAbility staff member and engineer Kyle Haney recently received training on using 3D printers at the University of Georgia's Makerspace so that staff can print assistive technology for their clients at no cost. [More](#)

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## Illinois

Kelly Gagnon, AgrAbility of Illinois communications coordinator, recently attended the official launch of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Illinois at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 7 in Chicago. [More](#)



Dr. Josie Rudolphi, AgrAbility of IL co-director, spoke at the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference in Springfield, Illinois, on Friday, January 10. [More](#)

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## Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility staff members Bill Field, Paul Jones, and Steve Swain attended the 2019 Purdue University Extension Professional Development Conference, which was held on the campus of Purdue University. [More](#)



Indiana AgrAbility closed out the calendar year as an exhibitor at the 2019 Indiana Farm Equipment and Technology Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis...Indiana AgrAbility client and advisory team member Mark Carter represented Purdue Extension and its drone specialists... [More](#)

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## Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility staff participated in a two-day training session with Assistive Technology for Kansans. [More](#)

KAP will be participating the Women Managing the Farm conference on February 13-14, which provides a supportive setting in which women can develop the skills, resources, and knowledge needed for success in a competitive agricultural environment.

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## Michigan

Using handheld clipping tools to trim the thousands of greens necessary to make the wreaths can take a toll on an individual's hands, and eventually making wreaths became a painful, unpleasant, task. [More](#)



Do you know Michigan ranks third in the nation for fresh Christmas tree production, producing over a dozen varieties of trees on more than 42,000 acres throughout the state? [More](#)

The Michigan AgrAbility Farmer Review Panel convened in December. MSU staff presented 2017 and 2018 annual survey results. Michigan AgrAbility was very much

appreciated by their clients. [More](#)

Want to know the 2019 happenings at Michigan AgrAbility? Take a look at the [Michigan AgrAbility 2019 Year in Review!](#)

December was a busy month for Michigan AgrAbility staff attending conferences: Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Dec 3-5) and the Great Lakes Expo (Dec 10-12). [More](#)



Mark your calendars! The 2020 Alpha Gamma Rho Beef Preview is soon to be here! Join the fun Friday-Sunday, February 7-9, at the MSU Livestock Pavilion in East Lansing.

[More](#)

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## Missouri

The University of Missouri Extension Missouri AgrAbility staff completed the following networking and marketing activities: [More](#)

Maureen Cunningham with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri featured the Missouri AgrAbility Project with an exhibit at the Coordinated School Health Conference in Columbia, Missouri, December 5-6. [More](#)

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## Nebraska

Emily Freudenburg was asked by the NAP team to present on farm/ranch-based assistive technology at the Regional Workshop in Sacramento. [More](#)

Specialists have been busy completing client visits before the year-end. Word from NE Vocational Rehabilitation is that more clients will be coming off the waiting list in January, and staff look forward to serving these clients.

Staff promoted AgrAbility at two events in December: the Nebraska Cattlemen Annual Convention in Kearney and the Cattle Confinement Symposium in Kearney.



It is a sad time for Nebraska AgrAbility and the entire Nebraska agricultural community. Longtime client and advisory board member John Dvoracek passed away in December. John served on several community and state boards during his farming career. [More](#)

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## North Carolina

On December 3 in Greensboro, NC, NCA&T SU agribusiness and food industry management undergraduate students under the leadership of Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore presented projects. The students worked during the semester on case studies for two NC AgrAbility farmers. [More](#)

On December 5-7 in Wilmington, NC, NC AgrAbility participated at The Ag Expo Conference facilitated by the NC Agribusiness Council. [More](#)

On December 6 in Raleigh, NC, Beatriz Rodriguez provided a lecture to NCSU bio engineering students for their ag safety class. [More](#)

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## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff members have been busy presenting, planning, promoting, and collaborating this winter. Staff presented "How accessible are your events and programs for people with disabilities?" at the 2019 Ohio State University Extension annual conference. [More](#)

OAP held an advisory committee meeting in December and welcomed several new committee members from the rural health community, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, Ohio Farm Bureau, the ADA coordinator for the city of Columbus, Ohio, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (Vocational Rehabilitation). [More](#)



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## Pennsylvania

AgrAbility PA wishes everyone a Happy New Year! The staff spent time in December preparing and prepping for big events at the start of 2020: two statewide farm shows and other key events and happenings. Staff look forward to connecting with AgrAbility colleagues in the coming year.

AgrAbility PA partnered with the PA Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) and Missouri AgrAbility to present an AgrAbility webinar, "Alternative Financing for Assistive Technology." [More](#)

AgrAbility PA has pulled together a one-page, front and back resource on cab cameras. [More](#)

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## South Dakota

Tatanka Ki Owetu AgrAbility Project on Pine Ridge has started to develop a wheelchair-accessible high-tunnel demonstration site at its Pine Ridge office headquarters. [More](#)

In addition, a second high-tunnel on site will be utilized by the program's first full-time AgrAbility incubator farmer client for in-ground production. The Tatanka Ki Owetu Project is exploring the use of incubators as a way to address land-access and equipment-access challenges that disabled tribal new farmers face in becoming involved in agriculture. [More](#)

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## Tennessee



Happy 2020 from Tennessee AgrAbility Project

There were leadership role changes for TNAP with the retirement of Tim Prather on December 31. TNAP welcomed Troy Dugger on January 1 as project director for UT Extension for Tennessee AgrAbility Project and Tennessee Beginning Farmer Outreach

Program. [More](#)

Finis Stribling will continue to be the TN State University Extension project director for TN AgrAbility plus the director of TN New Farmer Academy. Joetta T. White and Eileen Legault will continue to be project coordinators with TN AgrAbility UT Extension area specialists.

TN AgrAbility was seen at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. One attention grabber from the booth was the distribution of silicone rings for men and women. They were a huge hit and staff were able to talk about the AgrAbility program to those visiting.





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## Utah

AgrAbility of Utah attended the USU Extension Pesticide Training Workshop in Logan, UT, on December 3 and gave a presentation on AgrAbility. Ninety-five people were in attendance.



On Dec. 5, Michael Porter and Randall Bagley attended the Utah Cattleman's Association Convention that was held in Salt Lake City. A display table with brochures and handouts was set up and more than 100 people attended the event.

AgrAbility of Utah presented at the Core Pesticide Applicator Workshop on Dec. 9 in Kaysville, UT. The event was attended by 55 agriculturists and pesticide applicators and was sponsored by USU Extension.

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## Wisconsin

The Wisconsin AgrAbility team had a great December. They attended the WI Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held in the Wisconsin Dells. [More](#)

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### StaffChanges and Recognition

## Tennessee



Tim Prather retired on 12/31/2019 after more than 36 1/2 years of service with University of Tennessee Extension. We appreciate all Tim did for TNAP!

Patrick T. (Troy) Dugger, with Center for Profitable Agriculture/UT Extension (CPA) assumed the role of project director for UT Extension's Tennessee AgrAbility Project and Tennessee Beginning Farmer Outreach Program January 1, 2020. Contact information:

*Troy Dugger*

*Program Coordinator, Center for Profitable Agriculture*

*850 Lion Parkway*

*Columbia, TN 38401*

*931-486-2777 Office Phone*

[pdugger2@utk.edu](mailto:pdugger2@utk.edu)

[aq.tennessee.edu/cpa](http://aq.tennessee.edu/cpa)



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### AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects.

- [Funding resources for assistive technology on farms \(AgrAbility\)](#)

- [AgrAbility offers services despite funding limitations](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [AgrAbility helps farmers who get sick or hurt. They don't have to quit farming.](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [Montezuma County Extension to host Colorado AgrAbility winter workshop](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Winter Workshops](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- ['Indiana AgrAbility' helps farmers get back on the job](#) (Indiana AgrAbility/Breaking New Ground)
- [Free enrollment in Indiana AgVets program available to veterans](#) (Indiana AgrAbility/Breaking New Ground)
- [Military Veterans On The Farm](#) (Indiana AgrAbility/Breaking New Ground)
- [2020 AgrAbility National Training Workshop](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Communities of Interest](#) (AgrAbility)
- [Colorado AgrAbility Program workshops set across the state](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [Farmer, gardener training for veterans begins Jan. 13 at Togus](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
- [AgrAbility of Illinois Gives Sheep Farmer Freedom | AgrAbility Unlimited](#) (Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited)

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## OtherNews

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

- [Building a mental health toolkit for rural residents](#)
- [USDA programs help farmers during 2019 challenges](#)
- [Crash shines light on immigrants in Christmas tree workforce](#)
- [Retiring NFU president: Family farms still viable](#)
- [A Texas man is making canes for veterans using hundreds of donated Christmas trees](#)
- [Could seaweed as cow feed help climate?](#)
- [USDA accepting proposals for conservation grants](#)
- [Record-number of US states growing hops](#)
- ['You're all goats today:' Gray farm opens up to human and goat hiking](#)
- [Farm Aid distributes \\$1 million in 2019 grants](#)

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## UpcomingEvents

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

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

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**January 2020**

## **Alaska**

On December 3-5, Alaska AgrAbility staff attended the statewide 2019 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Provider's Conference in Anchorage. Agency personnel from across the state attended and discussed a variety of topics ranging from tribal operations to natural resources. An outreach booth was staffed for the whole conference.

In December, a staff member from Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) attended a Farm & Food Meeting in Kenai, Alaska. Information was shared about the AgrAbility project with representatives from various local farms and agriculture-related businesses.

Submitted by DeShana York

January 2020

## California

California AgrAbility hosted the AgrAbility Regional Workshop in Davis, CA. The conference had over 30 attendees from various states and agencies including the CA Department of Rehabilitation and Ability Tools. Attendees learned about topics such as cultural humility, farming and ergonomics, farming assistive tools, and how DOR can collaborate with AgrAbility to enable clients to farm safely. An interactive workshop on the importance of strengthening community collaborations presented attendees with an opportunity to network and connect on a personal level. Some of the tools available at the AgrAbility and Ability Tools Device Lending Library were displayed during the conference. Tour day brought rain, but participants were able to explore a family migrant center and learn about the culture of different migrant centers and groups. Participants also got a chance to visit a couple of the UC Davis agricultural safety and engineering labs with projects researching ATV safety and co-robotics for farmworker safety.



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Clinica Tepati, a free student-run clinic in Sacramento, conducted a train-the-trainer for their exercise class. In collaboration with California AgrAbility staff, a modified exercise routine, based on exercises from Arthritis Foundation, was created to help patients safely move and exercise to manage and prevent chronic illnesses such as arthritis. Three new volunteers joined the training to become trainers for their bi-weekly exercise class.



California AgrAbility staffed a booth at the Small Farm Tech Expo in Santa Rosa, CA. Hosted by Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and Farmers Guild, the Small Farm Tech Expo was the first exposition to introduce farm technology from around the state and private industry specifically for small farmers. Many new assistive devices on the market were showcased. Staff was able to inform many attendees about

AgrAbility services and to network with other agencies in the hope of reaching more farmers who need AgrAbility services.

Submitted by Sara Wat

January 2020

## Georgia



December 8-9, Georgia AgrAbility staff attended the 82nd Annual Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Conference hosted in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The conference was a great way for farmers to come together to celebrate achievements and to discuss the state's largest economic sector: agriculture. Georgia AgrAbility was an exhibitor at the conference and had the opportunity to network with farmers, policy makers, and professionals, all while telling them about the Georgia AgrAbility program. Referrals were made from this conference, and staff members are looking forward to continuing meaningful conversations long after the conference.

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Georgia AgrAbility staff member and engineer Kyle Haney recently received training on using 3D printers at the University of Georgia's Makerspace so that staff can print assistive technology for their clients at no cost. A 3D printer has the capability of taking a design file and printing that file out. It accomplishes this by the printer heating up plastic filament and applying the plastic in very thin layers in the shape of the design. The printer builds up the print one layer at a time until the 3D part is finished. They now have 3D printers that can print in wood and metal as well as plastic. This knowledge and use of 3D printers will continue to be beneficial as GA AgrAbility serves its farmers.

Submitted by Rebecca Brightwell

January 2020

## Illinois

Kelly Gagnon, AgrAbility of Illinois communications coordinator, recently attended the official launch of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Illinois at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 7 in Chicago. Three AgrAbility staff members support the FVC in their roles as board members: Kelly Gagnon (board of directors, communication officer), Steve Beasley (board of directors), and Jim Williams (advisory board).



Dr. Josie Rudolphi, AgrAbility of IL co-director, spoke at the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference in Springfield, Illinois, on Friday, January 10. In her presentation, "Farm Stress: Do You Know the Signs?", she educated attendees on the signs and symptoms of common stress and provided them with coping techniques to manage the effects.

Submitted by Megan Crowhurst

January 2020

## Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility staff members Bill Field, Paul Jones, and Steve Swain attended the 2019 Purdue University Extension Professional Development Conference, which was held on the campus of Purdue University. The conference is held over two days and includes breakout sessions for Extension educators as well as presentations from Dr. Jason Henderson, Purdue Extension director. Former Indiana AgrAbility staff member Shawn Ehlers presented a session on IN-PREPrepared, an emergency preparedness program for Indiana rural communities, including accessibility for people with disabilities.



Indiana AgrAbility closed out the calendar year as an exhibitor at the 2019 Indiana Farm Equipment and Technology Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The exhibit included AgrAbility literature and assistive technology, IN-PREPrepared material, introductory information



on the Indiana AgVets project, a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift, and an Action Track Stander power wheelchair. Indiana AgrAbility client and advisory team member Mark Carter represented Purdue Extension and its drone specialists with a display explaining the use of drones, the regulations involved, and examples of potential applications, and he gave demonstrations of their use.



Submitted by Steve Swain

January 2020

## Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility staff participated in a two-day training session with Assistive Technology for Kansans. Activities included a demonstration by [Orcam's MyEye](#), wearable assistive technology for the blind and visually impaired that conveys visual information audibly. It reads text, recognizes faces, and can even identify products. Other training topics included KAP staff sharing with other AT Specialists, information on AT equipment loan systems, and updates on Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Kansas.

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KAP will be participating the Women Managing the Farm conference on February 13-14, which provides a supportive setting in which women can develop the skills, resources, and knowledge needed for success in a competitive agricultural environment. This event brings together women farmers, rural business leaders and landowners. KAP will be presenting sessions that include "Aching Joints and Arthritis Don't Have to Hold You Back" and "Mobile Technology and Health Management."

Submitted by Tawnie Larson



January 2020

## Michigan

Using handheld clipping tools to trim the thousands of greens necessary to make the wreaths can take a toll on an individual's hands, and eventually making wreaths became a painful, unpleasant, task. This happened to Phil Miller, for whom making holiday wreaths has been both a passion and a profession for decades. Michigan AgrAbility was able to help Phil to remain productive by assisting in the procurement of electric pruners which has enabled him to keep working in spite of his hand pain. Easterseals Michigan AgrAbility program is currently exploring other ways to help so that he can continue doing what he loves!



Do you know Michigan ranks third in the nation for fresh Christmas tree production, producing over a dozen varieties of trees on more than 42,000 acres throughout the state? Laurie Grant and her husband, Joe, contribute to Michigan's national standing by producing Christmas trees as well as cherries on their farm. Laurie was assisted by AgrAbility to help her accommodate arthritis and allow her to comfortably continue her pruning job in the farm's orchards and Christmas tree fields.

The Michigan AgrAbility Farmer Review Panel convened in December. MSU staff presented 2017 and 2018 annual survey results. Michigan AgrAbility was very much appreciated by their clients. To incentivize annual survey returns, at the 2017 Farm Panel meeting, two panel members offered \$100 for the purchase of a gift card. A random drawing was held after the 2019 panel meeting to determine the two gift card winners. One 2019 farmer panel member offered to sponsor the \$100 gift card for a lucky winner for the 2019 annual survey return. To further incentivize clients returning the annual survey and case closing survey, discussion among panel members resulted in a decision to combine the case-closing survey and the annual survey so clients need only complete one survey form. Hopefully this change, combined with other changes discussed at the meeting, will increase the number of clients returning the survey form to permit Michigan AgrAbility to better serve its constituents.

December was a busy month for Michigan AgrAbility staff attending conferences: Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Dec 3-5) and the Great Lakes Expo (Dec 10-12). The Expo gathers fruit and vegetable growers, greenhouse growers and farm marketers across Michigan and surrounding states to attend informational sessions, have an opportunity to network with others, and learn about Michigan AgrAbility. Michigan AgrAbility partnered with Davenport University to provide free arthritis screenings to conference attendees.



Mark your calendars! The 2020 Alpha Gamma Rho Beef Preview is soon to be here! Join the fun Friday-Sunday, February 7-9, at the MSU Livestock Pavilion in East Lansing. If you would like to sponsor or contribute to this great cause, please find the [sponsorship form here](#).

Submitted by Deb Chester



January 2020

## Missouri

The University of Missouri Extension Missouri AgrAbility staff completed the following, networking, and marketing activities:

- December 2, assisted with Farm Bill workshop in Boone county. MO AgrAbility resources including mental health and opioid materials were handed out and discussed with 20 participants.
- December 3, assisted with Farm Bill seminar for ag lenders in Adair county. MO AgrAbility resources including mental health and opioid materials were handed out and discussed with 35 participants.
- December 4, assisted with Farm Bill seminar for ag lenders in Marion county. AgrAbility resources including mental health and opioid materials were handed out and discussed with 50 participants
- Karen Funkenbusch joined Susan Tachau and Tracy Beck from the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation and Abbie Spackman, AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, to provide first-hand experiences during the [Alternative Financing for Assistive Technology webinar](#) on December 5.
- December 8-9, participated in the 2019 Annual Missouri Farm Bureau (MOFB) Meeting in Osage Beach, Missouri. The annual meeting is an opportunity for MOFB members to gather, learn about the latest trends in agriculture, meet other like-minded individuals and enjoy great food and entertainment. MO AgrAbility mental health and an opioid tabletop display were showcased along with handing out MO-specific resources and facilitating questions.
- December 10, assisted with Farm Bill workshop in Pettis county. MO AgrAbility resources including mental health and opioid materials were discussed with 72 participants.
- Missouri continues to be involved with the North Central Region (NCR) "Farm and Ranch Wellness: The Next Steps," USDA NIFA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) grant funded initiative. NCR FRSAN projects include:
  - PD: David N. Brown, Iowa State University of Science and Technology
  - Co-PD: Sean Brotherson, North Dakota State University
  - Co-PD: Karen Funkenbusch, University of Missouri
  - Co-PD: Jessica Groskopf, University of Nebraska
  - Co-PD: Gregg L. Hadley, Kansas State University
  - Co-PD: Dee Jepsen, Ohio State University
  - Co-PD: Kenneth Martin, Ohio State University
  - Co-PD: Kent D. Olson, University of Minnesota
  - Co-PD: Josie M. Rudolphi, University of Illinois
  - Co-Investigator: Rachel Clews, Kansas State University
  - Co-Investigator: Emily Wilmes, University of Minnesota
  - Co-Investigator: Kathy Dothage, University of Missouri
  - Co-Investigator: Christopher Zoller, Ohio State University

Submitted by: Karen Funkenbusch

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Maureen Cunningham with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri featured the Missouri AgrAbility Project with an exhibit at the Coordinated School Health Conference in Columbia, Missouri, December 5-6. One-on-one conversations were

held with school nurses and counselors who were seeking suggestions for soon-to-be graduates with disabilities, resources for healthy foods for students, and ways to prevent injuries for their students.

Submitted by: Maureen Cunningham

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January 2020

## Nebraska

Emily Freudenburg was asked by the NAP team to present on farm/ranch-based assistive technology at the Regional Workshop in Sacramento. While there, Emily learned more about work the California team is doing with migrant workers and the types of assistive technology that is utilized for these individuals.



It is a sad time for Nebraska AgrAbility and the entire Nebraska agricultural community. Longtime client and advisory board member John Dvoracek passed away in December. John served on several community and state boards during his farming career. Anyone who knew John could not help but be inspired by his passion for agriculture, his family, and his community. He was one of those people who would never back down from a challenge and was always available to anyone who had a request or a need. John would call several times a year when he would learn about some new piece of assistive technology or tool that might help others with their disability. He was a tremendous advocate for the Nebraska project and, beyond that, he was a really good friend. The "Milo Man" will certainly be missed. Obituary: <http://bit.ly/2ttgUQ3> Video: <https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/JT47S2SJSZ6MTDR8>

Submitted by Susan Harris-Broomfield

January 2020

## North Carolina

On December 3 in Greensboro, NC, NCA&T SU agribusiness and food industry management undergraduate students under the leadership of Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore presented projects. The students worked during the semester on case studies for two NC AgrAbility farmers. They presented a marketing plan proposal as their final project. Farmers, NCA&T professors and NC AgrAbility staff served as judges for the projects. The students received a stipend from NC AgrAbility as an incentive for their work with NC AgrAbility farmers.

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On December 5-7 in Wilmington, NC, NC AgrAbility participated at The Ag Expo Conference facilitated by the NC Agribusiness Council. Dr. Crystal Kyle presented "Farm Safety and Health: mental health, working with farmers with disabilities, and using technology on farms." Farmers and service providers had the chance to learn about the program and how to apply for services.

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On December 6 in Raleigh, NC, Beatriz Rodriguez provided a lecture to NCSU bio engineering students for their ag safety class. The lecture was titled, "How to Prevent Injuries in the Ag Workplace" and was about the NC AgrAbility program. Eleven students participated at this interactive session.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez



January 2020

## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff members have been busy presenting, planning, promoting, and collaborating this winter. Staff presented "How accessible are your events and programs for people with disabilities?" at the 2019 Ohio State University Extension annual conference. This presentation gave OAP staff a chance to promote AgrAbility to Extension educators from across the state, and to share ways to make these events and programming inclusive to all participants.

OAP held an advisory committee meeting in December and welcomed several new committee members from the rural health community, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, Ohio Farm Bureau, the ADA coordinator for the city of Columbus, Ohio, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (Vocational Rehabilitation). Several Ohio AgrAbility farmers continue to serve on our committee as well as representatives from the Farm Service Agency, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Arthritis Foundation, OSU Wexner Medical Center, and the OSU ADA coordinators. OAP staff shared an introduction to AgrAbility and overview of activities, outreach, and farmers served in 2019. Staff led committee members in a discussion of audiences that should be reached for promotion of AgrAbility services, training, and educational opportunities.



Submitted by

January 2020

## Pennsylvania

AgrAbility PA partnered with the PA Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) and Missouri AgrAbility to present an AgrAbility webinar, "Alternative Financing for Assistive Technology." Project Assistant Abbie Spackman provided examples of working with PATF to obtain financial assistance towards assistive technology for farmers and farm families. Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

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AgrAbility PA has pulled together a one-page, front and back resource on cab cameras. The staff is finding that in addition to farmers being interested in this piece of assistive technology, it comes in a range of models and price points to fit many different budgets. Thanks to Shawn Ehlers (National AgrAbility Project) for sharing [some photos](#)!

Submitted by Abbie Spackman

January 2020

## South Dakota - Tatanka Ki Owetu

Tatanka Ki Owetu AgrAbility Project on Pine Ridge has started to develop a wheelchair-accessible high-tunnel demonstration site at its Pine Ridge office headquarters. The team hopes to have the phase one build-out completed by spring of this year. The 20'x96' Quonset high-tunnel will showcase several different wheelchair-accessible raised growing bed styles along with some in-ground and vertical growing beds, a drip irrigation system, and a trellising system. The team designed this system to be able to be resourced locally at little to no cost for tribal farmers living in persistent poverty. The team is exploring the use of thick rubber stall mats, sourced at a local ACE Hardware store, as the hard surface inside the high-tunnel. The team initially tested these mats with three clients last year and, after making some adjustments, received positive feedback from clients about the mats improving their ability to navigate around their sites. It will also showcase an internal trellising system that will help support the high-tunnel structure in the strong Northern Great Plains winds.

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In addition, a second high-tunnel on site will be utilized by the program's first full-time AgrAbility incubator farmer client for in-ground production. The Tatanka Ki Owetu Project is exploring the use of incubators as a way to address land-access and equipment-access challenges that disabled tribal new farmers face in becoming involved in agriculture. The two incubator hubs, in concert with the partnering organizations that own the land and high-tunnels, provide land and high-tunnel access for free to landless disabled tribal farmers, including new farmers on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Persistent poverty, lack of access to capital, land, equipment, and hands-on training are major barriers that tribal producers face. To assist these producers, Tatanka Ki Owetu and their partners are making innovative solutions realistic by finding the solutions in the problems. Where land access is the problem, land access is also the solution, etc.

Submitted by Jason Schoch

January 2020

## Tennessee

Happy 2020 from Tennessee AgrAbility Project



There were leadership role changes for TNAP with the retirement of Tim Prather on December 31. TNAP welcomed Troy Dugger on January 1 as project director for UT Extension for Tennessee AgrAbility Project and Tennessee Beginning Farmer Outreach Program. Troy began his work with the Center for Profitable Agriculture (CPA) in July 2018 as a program coordinator. He has been involved in providing leadership to

Extension educational programs for beginning farmers as well as programs involving specialty and alternative crops, value-added farm enterprises, and sustainable agriculture. With his work in sustainable agriculture, Dugger is also serving as the program assistant for the Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) program in Tennessee. After completing college at the University of Tennessee, Troy began a career with UT Extension in Hickman County that spanned more than 33 years. Troy served six years as a 4-H Agent and worked as the agriculture agent and county director in Hickman County for a combined 27 years. His educational program areas focused on livestock and forage production, forestry, and providing marketing opportunities for local producers in the establishment of a farmer's market in Centerville.



The Center for Profitable Agriculture is a partnership between the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and assists Tennessee farmers in analyses, development, and sustainability of value-added agricultural enterprises. Value-added enterprises are those that allow the producer or grower to earn a greater portion of consumer expenditures by processing, packaging, and/or marketing crops, livestock, or other farm resources, and also includes agritourism and direct marketing ventures. CPA delivers these educational programs through presentations, farm visits, consultations, developing materials, and providing training in value-added agriculture for county Extension agents and other agricultural leaders.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

January 2020

## Wisconsin

The Wisconsin AgrAbility team had a great December. They attended the WI Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held in the Wisconsin Dells. They were able to connect with many farmers. As a result of attending, not only did they enroll three farmers in the program after having conversations with them during the trade show, but they were also able to get a radio interview via [REEL COUNTRY 1430AM/107.3FM Farm News report](#).

Submitted by Amanda Harguth

January 2020

## Upcoming Events

**Name** Fort Wayne Farm Show  
**Dates** January 14-16, 2020  
**City, State** Fort Wayne, Indiana  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://tradexpos.com/fort-wayne-farm-show/>

**Name** Alaska Health Summit  
**Dates** January 21-23, 2020  
**City, State** Anchorage, Alaska  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.alaskapublichealth.org/>

**Name** Dairy Strong Conference  
**Dates** January 22-23, 2020  
**City, State** Madison, Wisconsin  
**Contact Info/Web link** <http://dairystrong.org/registration/>

**Name** Twelfth Annual Winter Green-Up  
**Dates** January 25, 2020  
**City, State** Latham, New York  
**Contact Info/Web link** [https://cpb-us-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)

**Name** WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE  
**Dates** January 25, 2020  
**City, State** Simultaneous event at multiple sites in Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Hawaii  
**Contact Info/Web link** <http://womeninag.wsu.edu/>

**Name** National Poultry and Food Distributors Association Annual Convention and Showcase  
**Dates** January 27-30, 2020



**City, State** Atlanta, Georgia  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.npfda.org/events/npfda-annual-convention-and-showcase-2020>

**Name** International Production and Processing Expo  
**Dates** January 28-30, 2020  
**City, State** Atlanta, Georgia  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://ippexpo.org/>

**Name** 56th Annual Colorado Farm Show  
**Dates** January 28-30, 2020  
**City, State** Greeley, Colorado  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.coloradofarmshow.com/>

**Name** 2020 Alaska Peony Conference  
**Dates** January 30 - February 1, 2020  
**City, State** Fairbanks, Alaska  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.alaskapeonyconference.com/welcome/>  
<https://www.alaskapeonies.org/about-apga/>

**Name** North Central Aquaculture Conference  
**Dates** February 1-2, 2020  
**City, State** Columbus, Ohio  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://tinyurl.com/rxy8wb7>

**Name** Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show  
**Dates** February 5-7, 2019  
**City, State** San Antonio, Texas  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://convention.ncba.org/>

**Name** Indiana Hort Conference and Expo  
**Dates** February 11-13, 2020  
**City, State** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.indianahortconference.org/>

**Name** 2020 Women Managing the Farm Conference

**Dates** February 13-14, 2020  
**City, State** Manhattan, Kansas  
**Contact Info/Web link** <http://womenmanagingthefarm.com/>

**Name** 41st annual OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association) conference  
**Dates** February 13-15, 2020  
**City, State** Dayton, Ohio  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.oeffa.org/conference2020.php>

**Name** 1st Annual Lakota Food Summit  
**Dates** February 18-20, 2020  
**City, State** Rapid City, South Dakota  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-annual-lakota-food-summit-tickets-80293145961>

**Name** Commodity Classic  
**Dates** February 27-29, 2020  
**City, State** San Antonio, Texas  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://commodityclassic.com/>

**Name** 2020 Indiana Small Farm Conference  
**Dates** March 5-7, 2020  
**City, State** Danville, Indiana  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.purdue.edu/dffs/smallfarms/>