

AgrAbility e•Note

July 2021

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

2022 NTW will be in-person!!!! The NAP is working with AgrAbility of Wisconsin and the Madison Concourse Hotel again to bring you an in-person NTW for 2022. Tentative dates are March 14-17. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee may email Tess at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org. More information to come.



AgrAbility/North Central FRSAN webinar: "Stress and Migrant/Season Farmworkers." Wednesday, August 25, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT. Featured presenters include Esmeralda Mandujano of California AgrAbility and Kimber Nicoletti-Martínez of the NAP. Registration opening soon.



AgrAbility is celebrating its 30th anniversary! NAP would appreciate each SRAP providing one figure that estimates the combined years of direct AgrAbility experience for those paid on your grant. Also, would you be willing to provide a short quote that describes why your AgrAbility work is important to you and others? Any archival photos you'd be willing to share? **Please send to jonesp@purdue.edu by July 23.**

"Veterans Harvest: A Virtual Conference for Veterans in Agriculture." This series will convene for five consecutive Tuesdays beginning July 27 from 1 – 2:30 p.m. ET. Those already registered for the 2021 AgrAbility National Training Workshop Virtual Sessions are automatically registered for the veterans' conference. [More](#)

Join us in Billings for an AgrAbility Regional Workshop !!! **Hotel reservations close on 7/18.** A link to the agenda and registration can be found on the NAP website [HERE](#). [More](#)

For any questions, please contact Tess tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or JoBeth jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org.



The NTW virtual sessions continue to have great participation. They have been recorded and are available on the NAP website [HERE](#). The next session is "How do you know what you don't know?" on Tuesday July 20 at 1 p.m. ET. Anyone already registered for any of

the sessions will use the same Zoom link. For those not registered yet, a schedule for the rest of the sessions and a registration link is available on the [NTW tab of the NAP website](#).



The National Amish Handicap [sic] Gathering was held in Shipshewana, Indiana, June 4-5. Due to years of relationship- and trust-building by Purdue AgrAbility and Extension staff, Purdue's National AgrAbility Project (NAP) was the only outside organization to have a booth at the event. [More](#)

The National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, Chuck Baldwin, and Ohio AgrAbility's PI, Dee Jepsen, staffed an AgrAbility booth July 2-3, 2021, at the [Horse Progress Days](#) event in Mt. Hope, Ohio. [More](#)



Toolbox Spotlight



The [NIRA Wearable Smart Thermometer](#) - a small device affixed to an adhesive patch that's placed just below the armpit - is designed to constantly monitor one's temperature, which is displayed (via secure app) on his/her smartphone. The phone will reportedly provide a visual alert at the first sign of abnormal temperature change, so that the user can be proactive and take immediate, appropriate action.

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

The Alaska AgrAbility team has been busy resuming in-person events and client visits where allowed. In June, two events were attended: the Nenana Ag Festival in Nenana and the "A Women's Affair" event in Fairbanks.

Erin Main, AK AgrAbility client service administrator, has been able to begin meeting in-person with clients at their farms to resume some onsite assessments. [More](#)

Art Nash has been planning and working on logistics with developing an accessible garden demonstration site adjacent to the Palmer State Fairgrounds. [More](#)

July is shaping up to be fast-paced and on-the-go. The team is excited that they have the privilege of hosting Ned Stoller from Michigan AgrAbility while he is in Alaska on vacation. [More](#)

DeShana York is part of a planning committee working to host the first-ever Alaska Farm Bureau Ag Convention & Expo in Anchorage on November 12-14, 2021. [More](#)

California

California AgrAbility's Esmeralda Mandujano presented at the Ability Tools AT Advocates monthly meeting. Esmeralda gave an overview of the California AgrAbility program and highlighted the importance of collaborations with partners like Ability Tools to be able to better assist AgrAbility clients. [More](#)

Partnerships as Solutions:
Ability Tools and AgrAbility Partnership





Esmeralda also presented at the California Department of Rehabilitation quarterly meeting for the Inland Empire Regional Office. She provided a brief overview of the AgrAbility program and the services offered to clients. [More](#) (Image credit: Inland Empire DOJ <https://oag.ca.gov/>)

California AgrAbility staff attended the Generation Rx: Safe Medication Practices for Better Health webinar hosted by Ohio AgrAbility and presented by pharmacist Dr. Ruth Emptage of the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. [More](#)

Georgia

Staff presented on "Improving Relations with Vocational Rehabilitation" during the AgrAbility National Training Workshop virtual session on June 1st.

On June 15, a Georgia AgrAbility staff member was invited to have a discussion on farm hydraulics safety tips on the "Growing On" podcast with Georgia Farm Bureau.

Staff presented during the AgrAbility National Training Workshop virtual session on June 15 titled, "Programmatic Factors that Lead to Changes in Quality of Life and Independent Living and Working Levels with AgrAbility Clients and a 25-Year Overview of AgrAbility Demographics." Check out the recorded webinar on www.agrability.org.

Georgia AgrAbility was able to purchase an Action Trackchair for its mobile learning lab. Staff now have the Action Trackchair and the Journeyman Scooter for clients to try out when they are doing farm assessments. Staff will also be able to take the chairs to seating assessments with Vocational Rehabilitation.

On June 28, staff hosted a farmer veteran networking event in east Georgia. The farmer veterans were happy to have a chance to network with each other. The event had 10 veterans participate in lunch and discussion time.

Georgia AgrAbility partners with the Small Business Development Center's ag team to assist many GA AgrAbility farming clients. This month AgrAbility and the SBDC teamed up to help establish a marketing strategy on a new variety of pasture-raised laying hens for an AgrAbility client in South Georgia.

Kansas

Flexibility in state purchasing contracts can be essential to meeting the needs of AgrAbility clients. Kansas AgrAbility staff worked closely with two regional supervisors from Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) to document common modifications needed for vehicles used in agricultural settings. [More](#)

Maine

Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels has started its monthly in-person workshops. On June 14, the group met at Chase Stream Farm, an organic diversified farm, to learn about irrigation systems. There was hands-on training for setting up an irrigation system in a high tunnel and practice transplanting seedlings using a Hatfield Planter. [More](#)



Maine AgrAbility's June 2021 article in the Commercial Fisheries News is about fishermen living and working with diabetes. [More](#)

Michigan



The Bavarian Inn of Frankenmuth that chose Michigan AgrAbility as its charity for the entire year held its first event, "Joe's Bike Bash," on June 10. The event benefited Michigan AgrAbility and Michigan Heroes Museum. [More](#)

June 17 was a big day for Michigan AgrAbility! Michigan AgrAbility filmed videos at western Michigan farms with National AgrAbility Project film crews. Thank you to two Michigan AgrAbility clients, Doug VerHoeven and Aaron Fenrich, for hosting! Please stay tuned for the release of the videos soon!



The First Annual Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) Golf Outing benefiting Michigan AgrAbility was a great success! The golf outing raised \$9,739 for Michigan AgrAbility! [More](#)

Mark the date for this year's AGRO EXPO in Michigan! Michigan AgrAbility will be one of the vendors at the AGRO EXPO on August 17-18, 2021, in Saint Johns, MI.

Missouri

Brenda Schreck, Missouri AgrAbility outreach coordinator for the Northeast Region at MU Extension, assisted an AgrAbility client with the delivery and setup of his equipment from the MO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. [More](#)



Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on National Men's Health Month, NTW promotion, and heat stress/illness. Additionally, Missouri AgrAbility continued to capture soundbites, photos, and videos of Missouri farmers with disabilities to build their media database. [More](#)



Thursday, June 17 and Saturday, June 19, twenty-seven veteran beekeepers and their families participated in a "Weathering the Storm in Agriculture: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset" workshop presented by John Fuller, a veteran and field specialist in human development, and Karen Funkenbusch, director, Missouri AgrAbility Project. [More](#)

On Thursday, June 17, as part of their summer 2021 STEM learning experience, interns Elisabeth Gooch, agriculture education, Maggie Hillmann, nutrition and exercise, and Ashtyn Howard, biology - all students with the Integrated STEM Internship Program at the University of Missouri - participated in the Heroes to Hives Missouri State Chapter hands-on regular hive inspections, adding supers, marking queens, and varroa mite testing training session. [More](#)



Mrs. Susan Jaster, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension small farmer outreach worker (FOW) has been working with a farmer to develop a mechanism to mitigate nitrogen buildup for backyard duck producers.

Mr. Nahshon Bishop, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension regional small farm specialist, has been working in collaboration with the University of Missouri to develop educational materials for drone usage on farms.

Missouri AgrAbility was featured at the four Brain Injury Association of Missouri One-Day Regional Outdoor Camps held in St. Louis, Springfield, Kansas City, and Columbia between June 22 and 27. [More](#)

Professionals who serve AgrAbility clients in eastern Missouri were updated about the Heroes to Hives program during the Networking Coffee for Professionals in St. Louis on

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility staff are anxiously awaiting direction from the NE State Department of Agriculture as to how legislative funding will be dispersed through the department of ag and then on to AgrAbility for use in purchasing assistive technology for Nebraska farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation has initiated Zoom sessions for the involved VR Counselor, AgrAbility staff, and three other VR staff, to educate them on what NE AgrAbility's assistive technology recommendations are and how they will be implemented. This gives our staff the opportunity to explain what the AT is and how it will be used to help the client



NE AgrAbility's specialists had the opportunity to participate in an Omeo Technology demonstration recently. The rep had put wider wheels on for this visit, making the base 33" wide. (The smaller wheels are 22" wide.) It is a very compact wheelchair that turns on a dime and is controlled by trunk and torso movements. [More](#)

Staff are finally able to attend a few in-person events, and they promoted AgrAbility at a hospital health fair and the Haskell Ag Lab Family Field Day.

North Carolina

June 22, NC AgrAbility Partnership participated in the "Keeping Them Safe" workshop. [More](#)

The recent North Carolina & Virginia AgrAbility marketing efforts were rewarded by Mr. Jeff Ishee, owner of On the Farm Radio. [More](#)

NC AgrAbility holds monthly meetings with partners and collaborators to provide continuing quality services to farmers across the state.

Ohio

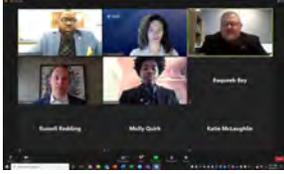
Ohio AgrAbility staff have been busy presenting, writing, and holding webinars this summer. *Ohio's Country Journal* published an article written by OAP staff on safe lifting and good body mechanics for farmers and gardeners. *AgriNews* published two articles that summarized OAP's Caregiver Support Network's resources for caregivers.



OAP's Caregiver Support Network hosted a webinar on safe medication practices June 9, which provided a very helpful overview of safe medication storage, disposal, and educational toolkit available for a variety of age groups. The webinar video and resources are available on the Ohio AgrAbility website, at the [Caregiver Support Network page](#).

Pennsylvania

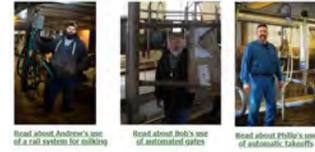
June was a diverse month! Staffer Abbie Spackman participated in a panel discussion during the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA). The "Feeding the Future" conference was hosted by the PA Department of Agriculture on



Zoom. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA staff participated in the LatinX Ag Networking Meeting. This was the second meeting of a group of individuals across all sectors of the Penn State University's College of Agriculture looking to increase outreach and services for this growing population in Pennsylvania.

AgrAbility PA participated in a variety of social media and online promotional efforts for June's Dairy Month. Pennsylvania has the second largest number of dairy farms nationally, behind only Wisconsin. [More](#)



Abbie Spackman and her work with AgrAbility PA was featured on Mahindra North America's blog, website, and social media. Learn more about her personal story in agriculture and why she enjoys her work with AgrAbility [here](#).

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility sends a BIG THANK YOU and congratulations to Deborah Reed, PhD, on her retirement! She has been a friend of AgrAbility and started consulting with KY AgrAbility and John Hancock in the early 1990s. She has always been a strong, clear voice and advocate to keep farmers safe and healthy. [More](#)

(Photo by Mark Cornelison)

Texas

BattleGround to Breaking Ground is now taking applications for the 10th cohort which will close July 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT. [Click here](#) for more information.



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension marketing and media team is coordinating with Texas AgrAbility and recent clients from the Amarillo, Texas, area on a feature story. The filming is planned for July and will be the feature of a marketing campaign highlighting AgrAbility's efforts to keep farmers and ranchers with various types of disabilities employed on the farm.



Texas AgrAbility client and BattleGround to Breaking Ground participant Damon Cleaton was featured on KXXV Channel 25 news as part of a veteran farmer story. The story highlighted the work of the AgrAbility client and another BattleGround to Breaking Ground program client's work in providing local food to their communities. You can [view the story here](#).

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff was excited to present at two Extension field day events on June 3 and 4 in Blanding, UT, and Price, Utah. The theme of the two events was "Irrigation Improvements" and they were attended by many farmers and ranchers from the surrounding areas.

On June 8, AgrAbility of Utah attended the Sustainable Grazing Institute in Panguitch, UT, and was able to explain AgrAbility to the farmers and Extension agents who attended. The workshop was dedicated to improving grazing management throughout Utah and the Intermountain West and was taught by USU Extension faculty.

AgrAbility of Utah staff presented at the Sheep Management Workshop in Cedar City, UT, on June 15. The workshop was for sheep producers in the state of Utah, and topics included flock health strategies, drought management techniques, and mineral nutrition.

On June 24, AgrAbility of Utah attended and presented at two Extension field day events in Delta, UT, and Ephraim, UT. Both events were sponsored by Utah State University Extension and the topics included cover crop research, corn inter-seeding, and surface irrigation.

On June 28, AgrAbility of Utah staff attended the Cache Interagency Council's hybrid meeting and explained the mission of AgrAbility. The goal of the Cache Interagency Council is to unite non-profits and community service organizations in sharing ideas, upcoming events, and ongoing services, thus producing a spirit of unity and cooperation among the participating organizations.

Program Coordinator Randall Bagley was interviewed by KVNU radio during their "For the People" program on June 28. Randall talked about the history of AgrAbility in Utah and how AgrAbility was able to assist farmers and ranchers with disabilities. KVNU radio is broadcast from Logan, Utah, and coverage includes northern Utah. The interview can be heard [here](#).

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 23 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including a returning vegetable farmer client in Surry County.

The staff just printed a brochure in Spanish and is now disseminating it across the state. A version of the brochure is available on the [website home page](#).

AgrAbility Virginia sent out their Spring 2021 newsletter. See the newsletter and sign up to receive future newsletters at the [website here](#).

The staff attended a Virginia Division of Rehabilitative Services (DARS) open house in Christiansburg, Virginia.

The results of the 2021 AgrAbility Virginia evaluation have been published through Virginia Cooperative Extension and are available [here](#).

Washington

The Washington State AgrAbility Project (WSAP) participated and exhibited at the Washington Association of Agricultural Educators Conference June 27-28 where 150 educators attended in-person and learned about WA AgrAbility and its services.



WSAP is working with stakeholders to plan an in-person meeting August 31. Staff will be showcasing the new Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP) facilities, reviewing stakeholder news, and discussing how to improve DVR awareness of AgrAbility services in Washington's rural communities.

WSAP continues working with six veteran farms throughout the state and learning how they work as well as how AgrAbility can help. Staff will be making farm visits including pop-up booth visits at each location with a demonstration of lending library tools.

Wisconsin

The AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff is excited that they were able to get



back out and see current and potential clients in person starting in late June. They attended an in-person meeting with the south-central WI Farmers Union group and shared more about Wisconsin AgrAbility.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin was also able to go visit a farmer and see a new piece of assistive technology he received recently. Staff spent a bit of time on his farm taking video and photos for future use.



AgrAbility of WI staff is excited to be attending the WI FFA Convention in person and sharing more about their program with youth in Wisconsin.

Staff Changes and Recognition

Michigan



Please welcome Hailey TenHarmsel to the Michigan AgrAbility team! Hailey has been a research assistant on multiple projects at Michigan State University in the Department of Medicine, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Starting July 1, Hailey will be providing educational outreach as an AgrAbility outreach specialist. Hailey - we are very excited to have you on the Michigan AgrAbility team!

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia Program Co-Director Dr. Bobby Grisso has retired from his faculty position at Virginia Tech. Bobby played a foundational and pivotal role in bringing AgrAbility to Virginia over 18 years ago. Even though he is retired from his co-director role, he has agreed to join the Advisory Group! Thank you, Bobby!



AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Virtual conference offered for veterans in agriculture](#) (National AgrAbility Project; also published on at least 8 other sites)
- [AgrAbility Regional Training Event](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
- [Practicing Good Body Mechanics](#) (Ohio AgrAbility Project)
- [Abbie Spackman: The Heirloom Farmer](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)
- [USU's AgrAbility and Primary Election Preview](#) (AgrAbility of Utah)
- [The hurdles of health insurance](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [Beekeeping Program For Veteran Families Creates Buzz](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
- [8 ways for caregivers to take care of themselves](#) (Ohio AgrAbility Project)
- [Advice for rural caregivers: Ask the right questions, find the right resources](#) (Ohio AgrAbility Project)
- [Expert shares tips on being safe when working around manure pits and piles](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
- [Purdue study documents injuries related to agricultural confined spaces nationwide](#) (National AgrAbility Project)

- [Little known service assists Utah farmers with disabilities](#) (AgrAbility of Utah; also published on at least 1 other site)
 - [Agriculture workshops set for military veterans](#) (Indiana AgrAbility Project)
 - [Boots 2 Bushels: Veterans cultivate their farming skills](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
 - [Battleground to Breaking Ground program aims to help veterans get started in agriculture](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
 - [Community of Support for Return to Work Life \(AgrAbility National Training Workshop\)](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
-

OtherNews

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

- [Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program](#)
 - [Study reveals agriculture-related injuries more numerous than previously known](#)
 - [Agritourism Survey Results](#)
 - [Maple is versatile](#)
 - [8 ways to get the most out of the farmers market with kids](#)
 - [Calm cows = happy producing cows](#)
 - [New website breaks down the confusing laws behind food labels](#)
 - [Pickled cucumbers fused with health promoting compound](#)
 - [Plant patch enables continuous monitoring for crop diseases](#)
-

UpcomingEvents

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

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

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July 2021

National AgrAbility Project



Join us in Billings for an AgrAbility Regional Workshop !!! **Hotel reservations close on 7/18.** A link to the agenda and registration can be found on the NAP website [HERE](#).

The regional event in Billings is being coordinated in conjunction with the [Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program](#).

The first two days of presentations will focus on farm stress and mental health, working with tribal nations and veterans, adaptive tools and technology, and worksite assessment. The third day will feature tours of local agricultural businesses.

Federal per diem nightly rate of \$96 is available at the [Billings Hotel and Convention Center](#) through 7/18/21. Rooms can be reserved by clicking hotel name above, choose "Book Now", check "Rate Options" and go to "Promotional/Group Code" and type in the group code GWF08.

Do you live and work in the Western portion of the United States and/or territory? Are you interested in attending the Regional Training Workshop in Billings? If so, please go to [farmstress.us](#) and fill out a WRASAP professional development grant application. Funds are available.

For questions about the workshop or to host a regional workshop in conjunction with Goodwill and NAP, please contact National AgrAbility partners at Goodwill:

Tess McKeel: tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or

JoBeth Rath: jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

The National Amish Handicap [sic] Gathering was held in Shipshewana, Indiana, June 4-5. Due to years of relationship- and trust-building by Purdue AgrAbility and Extension staff, Purdue's National AgrAbility Project (NAP) was the only outside organization to have a booth at the event. Chuck Baldwin, NAP's underserved populations outreach coordinator, along with Ned Stoller, NAP's assistive technology specialist, and Erin Gick, occupational therapy doctoral student from Huntington University serving an internship with the NAP, staffed the booth.



Roughly 500 Amish, all of them impacted by disability personally or through their family, attended the Gathering. The purpose of the annual Gathering is for those who come to encourage each other in their faith and to share what is working and what is not working for them as caregivers to those with disabilities among them. The Handicap Gathering rotates annually from Indiana to Pennsylvania to Ohio, and every fourth year it is open to any state with an Amish population that cares to host the event. The 2022 Handicap Gathering is scheduled to be held at the Martindale Fellowship Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Ned Stoller, a Purdue grad in agricultural engineering, brought several pieces of assistive technology to the Gathering to share with the Amish ideas of what can be done to help those with disabilities have a higher quality of life. A talking tape-

measure/inclinometer garnered a lot of interest, particularly from two Amish teenagers who were both legally blind. A foldable garden kneeling bench and several different pieces of assistive technology designed to help people with weakness in their hand/wrist/forearm grip objects for work were also displayed and demonstrated.



The National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, Chuck Baldwin, and Ohio AgrAbility's PI, Dee Jepsen, staffed an AgrAbility booth July 2-3, 2021, at the [Horse Progress Days](#) event in Mt. Hope, Ohio. Mt. Hope is located in Holmes County, home to the world's largest Amish community where farming is still done with horses.

The purpose of Horse Progress Days, according to its mission statement, is: "To encourage and promote the combination of animal power and the latest equipment innovations in an effort to support sustainable small-scale farming and land stewardship. To show draft animal power is possible, practical and profitable." This year was the 27th annual event and, over the two-day period, it drew an estimated crowd of 35,000-40,000 attendees from across the United States and from several other countries as well. An estimated 70% of those attendees historically have been from Amish or other Plain communities.



Many different breeds of draft horses were shown, along with ponies, mules, and oxen, and most were used in harness to demonstrate plowing, tillage, haymaking, farming, logging, and more. Demonstrations were given throughout the event of different hitch configurations from single up to six- and even eight-horse hitches.



AgrAbility was one of hundreds of exhibitors and vendors that were housed in two very large buildings on the Mt. Hope Auction grounds. Customer flow was excellent, giving the opportunity for Chuck and Dee to talk and demonstrate assistive technology to around 10 people per hour with many more coming through the booth and watching or listening as explanations were given. Several potential clients from different States requested help from AgrAbility and are being followed up by AgrAbility staff from Purdue as well as staff from some other states in which the customers live.



Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

July 2021

Alaska

Erin Main, AK AgrAbility client service administrator, has been able to begin meeting in-person with clients at their farms to resume some onsite assessments. More assessments are planned for this summer and, like many state projects, staff have been very busy with what seems like trying to make up for a year in one summer!

Art Nash has been planning and working on logistics with developing an accessible garden demonstration site adjacent to the Palmer State Fairgrounds. Funds for this great opportunity were provided by AARP in partnership with AK AgrAbility. Other discussions are underway around the state for other demonstration sites to provide education and awareness to gardening and agricultural accessible information.

July is shaping up to be fast-paced and on the go. The team is excited that they have the privilege of hosting Ned Stoller from Michigan AgrAbility while he is in Alaska on vacation. Staff are looking forward to spending some time with Ned and benefiting from his long history with AgrAbility and ag engineering expertise. In anticipation of Ned's visit, he delivered two workshops in June for Alaska via Zoom titled "[Market Farm & Garden Assistive Technology](#)" and "[Beekeeping Assistive Technology](#)". During Ned's first week in Alaska, he and AK AgrAbility staff will be doing some visits and engagements with the community in Delta Junction where bison, elk, and yak roam free and where everyone in the community can tell you where to get the best yak burger in town!

DeShana York is part of a planning committee working to host the first-ever Alaska Farm Bureau Ag Convention & Expo in Anchorage on November 12-14, 2021. If interested in attending to provide a presentation on behalf of AgrAbility or interested in being a vendor, contact DeShana at ddyork@alaska.edu.

Submitted by DeShana York

July 2021

California

California AgrAbility's Esmeralda Mandujano presented at the Ability Tools AT Advocates monthly meeting. Esmeralda gave an overview of the California AgrAbility program and highlighted the importance of collaborations with partners like Ability Tools to be able to better assist AgrAbility clients. Attendees



participated in breakout groups and shared their thoughts on assistive tools that they thought might help the client described in their assigned scenarios. Throughout the presentation, attendees were provided with resources on assistive devices and tips for people working in agriculture with a disability, injury, or illness.



Esmeralda also presented at the California Department of Rehabilitation quarterly meeting for the Inland Empire Regional Office. She provided a brief overview of the AgrAbility program and the services offered to clients. Esmeralda highlighted the benefits of AgrAbility's partnerships with other agencies to support AgrAbility clients and assist them in obtaining assistive devices that help them to continue to work successfully in agriculture. She also provided a step-by-step guide of the process for an AgrAbility and DOR collaboration. The

presentation closed with a short question and answer session in which Esmeralda responded to questions about eligibility criteria for clients. (Photo credit: Inland Empire DOJ <https://oag.ca.gov/>)

California AgrAbility staff attended the Generation Rx: Safe Medication Practices for Better Health webinar hosted by Ohio AgrAbility and presented by pharmacist Dr. Ruth Emptage of the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. With drug overdose being the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, Dr. Emptage gave an overview of medication misuse and discussed three key rules of safe medication practices. The webinar also highlighted the importance of keeping a medication record, proper medication disposal, and using a pharmacist as a resource.

Submitted by California AgrAbility Project

July 2021

Kansas

Flexibility in state purchasing contracts can be essential to meeting the needs of AgrAbility clients. Kansas AgrAbility staff worked closely with two regional supervisors from Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) to document common modifications needed for vehicles used in agricultural settings. KRS recently entered into a sole-source contract with a vehicle modification vendor who specializes in van adaptations in the northeast corner of the state. This created a gap in meeting the service needs of individuals engaged in agricultural employment. The KRS regional supervisors used a sample case based on collaboration with KAP staff to justify the need to work outside the existing sole-source state contract particularly when dealing with retrofitting trucks used in agricultural settings. The justification passed KRS central office review and is at the KRS Division of Purchases for review and final approval. This systems change effort will open the door to KAP staff and VR counselors being able to obtain quotes and services from vendors in central and western Kansas who have extensive experience working on agricultural vehicles. Final approval is expected in the next four to six weeks.

Submitted by Sheila Simmons

July 2021

Maine



Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels has started its monthly in-person workshops. On June 14, the group met at Chase Stream Farm, an organic diversified farm, to learn about irrigation systems. There was hands-on training for setting up an irrigation system in a high tunnel and practice transplanting seedlings using a Hatfield Planter. Maine AgrAbility's OT, Brie Weisman, gave an overview of the program, talked about assistive technology and body mechanics, and discussed ME AgrAbility's Farmer Pain Tool. To see more photos from the field day, [click here](#).



Maine AgrAbility's June 2021 article in the Commercial Fisheries News is about fishermen living and working with diabetes. Fishermen have additional challenges related to diabetes while working in harsh conditions on the ocean, such as wound care, medication, diet, and neuropathy issues. Check out the article [here](#).

Submitted by Lani Carlson

July 2021

Michigan



The Bavarian Inn of Frankenmuth that chose Michigan AgrAbility as its charity for the entire year held its first event, "Joe's Bike Bash," on June 10. The event benefited Michigan AgrAbility and Michigan Heroes Museum. It was a great opportunity to



promote the Michigan AgrAbility program and raise funds to help more Michigan farmers. Live entertainment from 97.3 Joe FM, good food and drinks, prize bidding, and a chance to admire bikes from all over the state, made this event a great success! Thank you, Bavarian Inn!



The First Annual Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) Golf Outing benefiting Michigan AgrAbility was a great success! The golf outing raised \$9,739 for Michigan AgrAbility! AGR has been supporting Michigan AgrAbility for over 10 years through Beef Preview Shows, Hog Roast and Spring Rodeo. Thank you, AGR, for your support of the Michigan AgrAbility program supporting the agriculture community!

Submitted by Joanna Kica

July 2021

Missouri



Brenda Schreck, Missouri AgrAbility outreach coordinator for the Northeast Region at MU Extension, assisted an AgrAbility client with the delivery and setup of his equipment from the MO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In May, the client received ergonomic seat cushions, steps, and

handrail for his John Deere 4020 tractor, cattle guards, and a JCB skid loader. In June, the client received a 3-ton bulk bin with auger system and a cake feeder. The client is overjoyed with the assistive technology devices he has received with assistance from Missouri AgrAbility and MO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The MO AgrAbility client is eager to put them all to use so he can work independently on his farm again.



Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on National Men's Health Month, NTW promotion, and heat stress/illness. Additionally, Missouri AgrAbility continued to capture soundbites, photos, and videos of Missouri farmers with disabilities to build their media database. Make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility (@MOAgrAbility) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and the Missouri AgrAbility collaborative partners on Facebook: [Missouri Beginning Farmers & Ranchers Program](#), [Heroes to Hives of Missouri](#), and [Show-Me Strong Farm Families](#). To learn about Heroes to Hives Missouri State Chapter, [click here](#).



Thursday, June 17 and Saturday, June 19, twenty-seven veteran beekeepers and their families participated in a "Weathering the Storm in Agriculture: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset" workshop presented by John Fuller, a veteran and field specialist in



human development, and Karen Funkenbusch, director, Missouri AgrAbility Project. John and Karen provided Missouri mental health tools, resources, and information for veteran farmers with disabilities and their families to help them through difficult situations and stress as they approach July harvest.

On Thursday, June 17, as part of their summer 2021 STEM learning experience, interns Elisabeth Gooch, agriculture education, Maggie Hillmann, nutrition and exercise, and Ashtyn Howard, biology - all students with the Integrated STEM Internship Program at the University of Missouri - participated in the Heroes to Hives Missouri State Chapter hands-on regular hive inspections, adding supers, marking queens, and varroa mite testing training session. The STEM interns also participated in the "Weathering the Storm in Agriculture: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset" workshop with veteran farmers with disabilities and their families. The MU Integrated STEM Internship Program (ISIP) is a nine-week paid internship that includes hands-on experience in a University of Missouri research setting and work with county-based Extension faculty members. Additional information can be obtained by [clicking here](#).



Submitted by: Brenda Schreck, Tevin Uthlaut, and Karen Funkenbusch

Missouri AgrAbility was featured at the four Brain Injury Association of Missouri

One-Day Regional Outdoor Camps held in St. Louis, Springfield, Kansas City, and Columbia between June 22 and 27. AgrAbility marketing activities included "Planting Marigolds" in a planter with the Missouri AgrAbility logo and signage visible to the 150 camp participants.

Professionals who serve AgrAbility clients in eastern Missouri were updated about the Heroes to Hives program during the Networking Coffee for Professionals in St. Louis on June 1. Maureen Cunningham with BIA-MO shared that many of the Missouri veterans in the Heroes to Hives program may have a brain injury. The 10 professionals in attendance discussed how beekeeping is an excellent opportunity for persons with brain injury.

Submitted by: Maureen Cunningham

July 2021

Nebraska



NE AgrAbility's specialists had the opportunity to participate in an Omeo Technology demonstration recently. The rep had put wider wheels on for this visit, making the base 33" wide. (The smaller wheels are 22" wide.) It is a very compact wheelchair that turns on a dime and is controlled by trunk and torso movements. It can move at up to 12 mph. One disadvantage noticed was that for a farmer to be able to pick up something off the ground, they would have to fully power down the unit, and most likely farmers/ranchers wouldn't want the hassle of doing that. It does very well on concrete and in grass, but inclines (cannot do over a 30° incline) or uneven surfaces can be tricky. The Omeo rep did indicate that it is being used on sheep farms in New Zealand and Australia. Learn more about [Omeo here](#).

Submitted by Susan Harris

July 2021

North Carolina

June 22, NC AgrAbility Partnership participated in the "Keeping Them Safe" workshop. Gloria Jinks, NCATP Technologist, presented "N.C. Assistive Technology Program: A look at the Who, What, and How of AT." Beatriz Rodriguez offered "Managing Common Agriculture Health Risk Factors." Around 32 farmers attended the event. Access to the recordings is available by [clicking here](#).

The recent North Carolina & Virginia AgrAbility marketing efforts were rewarded by Mr. Jeff Ishee, owner of On the Farm Radio. Jeff stated, "I am extending your promotional campaign for AgrAbility to the end of July at no extra charge. The simple reason is: I believe whole-heartedly in the work that you are doing and want to support the effort as much as possible."

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

July 2021

Pennsylvania



June was a diverse month! Staffer Abbie Spackman participated in a panel discussion during the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA). The "Feeding the Future" conference was hosted by the PA Department of Agriculture on Zoom. The session included over 70 attendees and panelists from different organizations focused on diversity in agriculture.

AgrAbility PA was invited to participate by PA Secretary of Ag Russell Redding. Abbie provided an overview of AgrAbility along with the services offered to support diversity including individuals with a disability or health condition in agriculture.

AgrAbility PA participated in a variety of social media and online promotional efforts for June's Dairy Month. Pennsylvania has the second largest number of dairy farms nationally, behind only Wisconsin. Read more about AgrAbility PA's work with dairy farmers and assistive technology through the eyes of



Philip: <http://agrabilitypa.org/success-stories/from-1840-to-present-a-tradition-of-family-dairy-farming/>

Bob: <http://agrabilitypa.org/success-stories/when-a-farmer-is-backed-into-a-corner-he-comes-out-swinging/> and

Andrew: <https://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/pa-dairy-goodness-that-matters/pa-dairy-overview/>

Submitted by Kendra Martin

July 2021

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility sends a BIG THANK YOU and congratulations to Deborah Reed, PhD, on her retirement! (Photo by Mark Cornelison) She has been a friend of AgrAbility and started consulting with KY AgrAbility and John Hancock in the early 1990s. She has always been a strong, clear voice and advocate

to keep farmers safe and healthy. Deborah was Kentucky's official agricultural health nurse in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and started the @AgNurse Facebook page. Dr. Deborah Reed is a registered nurse who received her BSN from the University of Kentucky in 1974 and her PhD in 1996. She is from a farm family in central Kentucky and has spent the past 28 years working across the nation and beyond to keep farmers and their families healthy and safe. She conducted research and educational programs funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NIOSH. She especially enjoys being with farm communities and prefers jeans and boots to academic regalia. Reed taught AgrAbility staff to always promote farm health and at least one aspect of safety at every presentation, event, and farm visit - plus prevention of secondary injuries.

She retired June 30, 2021, with a new article submission published in the Journal of Extension. Authors: Deborah B. Reed, Debra McCallum, and Eileen Legault submitted: "[Farm Dinner Theater: Improving Health and Safety for Farm Families](#)" (MS #1286).

The program, Farm Dinner Theater, and Deborah Reed were featured in an O Magazine article "Meet 5 Nurses Who Just Might Save the World." The program has received numerous awards, including the American Academy of Nursing's Edge Runner Award and the Search for Excellence in Farm Health and Safety from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents organization.

Dr. Reed ends a wonderful career that has impacted the farm health and safety of a countless number of farm families! Deborah, you will be missed! Enjoy your retirement and more time for hiking in TN!

To read an additional story on Dr. Reed, "UK's First Agriculture Nurse Sets the Stage for Kentucky's Farmers", [click here](#).

Submitted by TN AgrAbility Project

July 2021

Upcoming Events

- Name** Agricultural Health and Safety Course for Medical and Safety Professionals
Dates July 13-16, 2021
City, State Virtual event online
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/aghealth/index.html>
- Name** Canning & Preservation Basics - Everyone Can Garden! - Vegetable gardening webinar series for people with physical and other limitations
Dates July 20, 2021, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. EST
City, State Virtual event online
Contact Info/Web link <https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/webinars-and-other-events/2021-gardening-physical-limitations-webinar-series>
- Name** 2021 Sustainable Agronomy Conference Virtual Event & Conservation in Action Tour Series
Dates July 20 & 27, August 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2021
City, State Virtual interactive event online
Contact Info/Web link Free to all. Six two-hour sessions, one per week, starting July 20, 2021. For further information or to register, [click here](#).
- Name** Deltana Fair & Music Festival
Dates July 23-25, 2021
City, State Delta Junction, Alaska
Contact Info/Web link <https://deltanafair.com/>
- Name** Farming with An Amputation- Voices from the Past
Dates July 28, 2021, 3:30-5:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar online
Contact Info/Web link Therese Willkomm shares a collection of interviews with farmers with Amputations.
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XPRNQ2kvSKmxWu4Oj5csHw
- Name** Tanana Valley State Fair

Dates July 30 - August 8, 2021
City, State Fairbanks, Alaska
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.tvsfa.org/>

Name Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Conference
Dates August 1-4, 2021
City, State Zoom event online
Contact Info/Web link <https://nutgrowing.org/annual-conference/>

Name Kenai Peninsula 4-H Ag Expo
Dates August 6-8, 2021
City, State Soldotna, Alaska
Contact Info/Web link <https://kp4h.com/expo/>

Name Penn State's Ag Progress Days
Dates August 10-12, 2021
City, State Rock Springs, Centre County, Pennsylvania
Contact Info/Web link <https://agsci.psu.edu/apd>

Name Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show
Dates August 10-12, 2021
City, State Nashville, Tennessee
Contact Info/Web link <https://convention.ncba.org/general-information>

Name Farming with a Vision Loss- Voices from the Past
Dates August 11, 2021 - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar online
Contact Info/Web link Therese Willkomm shares a collection of interviews with farmers who are blind. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QJ-JIt4kSD6IzIYOeaMD5g

Name National Safety Conference for the Poultry Industry
Dates August 16-18, 2021
City, State Destin, Florida
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.uspoultry.org/educationprograms/#nsc>

Name AGRO EXPO
Dates August 17-18, 2021
City, State Saint Johns, Michigan
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.theagroexpo.com/>

Name Make Stuff and Love People
Dates August 18, 2021 - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar online
Contact Info/Web link Therese Willkomm will share the joy of making thousands of assistive technology devices; discoveries of new tools and materials for rapid fabrication; and lessons learned over the last 30 years.
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4NxXkviUTrqHxbxF2Ru2rw

Name Alaska State Fair
Dates August 20 - September 6, 2021
City, State Palmer, Alaska
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/>

Name Skagit County Fair
Dates August 10-14, 2021
City, State Mt. Vernon, Washington
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Fair/main.htm>

Name AgrAbility Stakeholders meeting
Dates August 31, 2021
City, State Seattle, Washington
Contact Info/Web link Curt Johnson, WATAP curtj@uw.edu

Name Garden Clean-Up & Prep for Next Year - Everyone Can Garden! - Vegetable gardening webinar series for people with physical and other limitations
Dates August 31, 2021, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. EST
City, State Virtual event online
Contact Info/Web link <https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/webinars-and-other-events/2021-gardening-physical-limitations-webinar-series>

Name Farm Science Review
Dates September 21-23, 2021
City, State London, Ohio
Contact <https://fsr.osu.edu/>

**Info/Web
link**

Name World Dairy Expo

Dates September 28 - October 2, 2021

City, State Madison, Wisconsin

Contact <https://worlddairyexpo.com/>

**Info/Web
link**

Name Eastern Regional Farmer Veteran Coalition Conference

Dates November 17-19, 2021

City, State Knoxville, Tennessee

Contact agrability@tennessee.edu

**Info/Web
link**