

AgrAbility e·Note

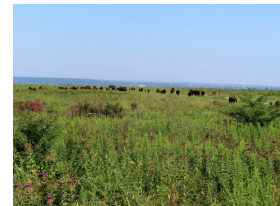
October 2021

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

Join the next AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting Monday, November 29 at 3:00 p.m. ET, 2:00 CT, 1:00 MT, 12:00 PT, 11:00 AKT. The agenda currently includes updates from NIFA and a presentation from Farm Rescue.

AgrAbility's next regional workshop will be held in Manhattan, Kansas, November 16-18, 2021. Registration is open! Find more information and the link to register on the NAP website under Other Trainings or [click here. More](#)



Thank you to all the SRAPs that have been posting and re-posting social media during the 2021 AgrAbility Virtual State Fair! So far, including pre-fair promotional posts, the 2021 VSF has reached more than 38,000 unique individuals on [Facebook](#) and earned more than 47,000 Tweet impressions on [Twitter](#).

Planning is in full swing for the 2022 NTW, and the dates are March 14-17. There have been a couple of planning meetings by Zoom, and the planning committee will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. ET. Session proposals are due October 17, so get your proposals in now! [More](#)



Chuck Baldwin, National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, spoke September 21 to the first International Mobility Device Provision and Distribution conference in Columbia, Missouri. [More](#)

Toolbox Spotlight

With these cast iron [Skid Steer Loader Bucket Steps](#),

one is able to access the machine's operator station without having to climb over the bucket. The 6- by 12-inch steps are affixed (via welding or bolting) to the outside back of the bucket - one about halfway up, the other a couple inches down from the top. They consist of metal slats welded to a frame, the tops of which are serrated to help prevent one's shoe/boot from slipping.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

Winter snow seems way early this year as Alaskans brace for colder temps! Everyone is scrambling to prepare following some winter storms and snow blizzards in early September!



Alaska AgrAbility representatives hosted a virtual tech hour chat focusing on tools for Alaskans who are deaf or hard of hearing. This chat is a part of an ongoing series open to individuals with disabilities, their caregivers, and disability support professionals to get questions answered and virtual demonstrations of assistive technology.

Art Nash, Alaska AgrAbility PI, has been working with a couple of partners to continue creating outreach materials around universal design. To accompany past work done on video about making the entryway and bathroom as accessible as possible, the collaboration will be looking at principles of retrofitting the kitchen for successful aging in place. [More](#)

On October 15 Art Nash, DeShana York, along with Steve Brown (Alaska CES Matanuska (Mat-Su) Valley Extension agent) will be demonstrating how to modify growing areas for various disabilities on site at the Mat-Su Senior Center.

DeShana York has been participating in the planning committee for the first annual upcoming Farm Bureau Convention & Tradeshow in conjunction with the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (Western SARE) Conference this November 12-14. The hope is that this new event will bring further education, engagement, and excitement around "all things agriculture" in Alaska. [More](#)

California

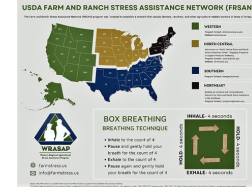
California AgrAbility staff participated in the first of three train-the-trainers workshops. The topic was "Overview of the Farm Loan Application." Amy Neale, farm loan officer trainee with the USDA Farm Service Agency, provided a detailed overview of the various farm loans, farm programs, [More](#)



California AgrAbility staff joined "Food in the Field," a webinar hosted by AgriSafe celebrating National Farm Safety and Health Week. Presenters from Nebraska Extension introduced their program, "Food in the Field." The program consists of four recorded online lessons and a recipe video. [More](#)

California AgrAbility partners from the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Network staffed an informational booth at the Farm Aid concert in Connecticut. This concert is the major

fundraising event for Farm Aid, a nonprofit agency connecting farmers to resources to support their farm operations. [More](#)



Colorado

Colorado is experiencing what seems to be a slowdown on referrals due to COVID. Accordingly, staff are re-focusing their efforts to areas and partners that they had not seen for a season or so.

In September, staff met with the program coordinators of the Denver Botanical Gardens Chatfield teaching facility. They offer veterans a hands-on approach to learning about plant and soil science. [More](#)

Georgia

Dr. Glen Rains worked with Georgia Farm Bureau to publish an article about PTO and hydraulic safety. The article is posted on [Georgia Farm Bureau's website](#).

Staff assisted with a focus group on stress experienced by young farmers in the state. Staff will use the information shared by the farmers to help AgrAbility clients who may be under a large amount of stress.

The staff is busy preparing for the Sunbelt Ag Expo that is coming up next month. They are very excited to have Tennessee and Virginia AgrAbility join them this year!

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility and the National AgrAbility Project staffed an exhibit at the 2021 Farm Progress Show in the Health and Safety Tent. The Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited Project was the host and organizer of the tent exhibits. [More](#)

Steve Swain, Indiana AgrAbility rural rehabilitation specialist, presented "Practical AT User Assessments" to the students in the graduate level course Assistive Technology Practice. [More](#)

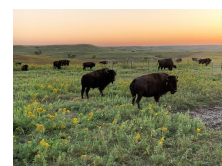
Kansas

Occupational therapists (OTs) and certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs) are an important referral source for Kansas AgrAbility. KAP staff provided a session at the annual Kansas OT Association conference on September 24. [More](#)



Kansas Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended and participated in a tractor cruise in Everest, Kansas, to support a KAP customer and her family. The cruise is an annual fundraiser for the Angelman Syndrome Foundation. [More](#)

Kansas AgrAbility is pleased to host the National AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop November 16-18, 2021, in Manhattan, Kansas. Presenters will include Farm Rescue, Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation, SAVE Farm... [More](#)



Maine



Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels (B2B) finished the growing season with its last on-farm tour. B2B participants and Maine AgrAbility staff visited Grace Pond Farm in Thomaston, Maine, on September 15 for an in-depth tour of their organic poultry, livestock, and dairy farm. [More](#)

Maine AgrAbility's most recent newsletter features the work of occupational therapists (OTs) and Mainers working in production agriculture. [More](#)

Maine AgrAbility's work with farmers, fishermen, and forest workers is featured on the [Network Connections](#) page of their website. Staff are also excited to share that their Level 2 OT fieldwork student, Michaela Marden, is featured in the latest article "[FishAbility: Fishermen and Occupational Therapists](#)" for *Commercial Fisheries News*.

On September 21, Lani Carlson was part of a panel talking to Master Gardener (MG) students about landscape design and access. Lani shared AgrAbility resources with about 56 MG students covering universal design, access issues, and ergonomics.



In late September, after representing AgrAbility at the Farm Aid Concert in Hartford, CT, WSU Extension Educator Don McMoran came to Maine for a visit with Maine AgrAbility's PD Richard Brzozowski. They unexpectedly met a 68-year-old fisherman using some interesting technology. [More](#)

Michigan

In September, the Michigan Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition hosted a successful soil health workshop. Farmers in attendance were informed on soil health and discussed small farm CSA as well as direct marketing strategies.

Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion for MU Extension and partner programs and National Farm Safety Week. Additionally, the Missouri AgrAbility team met to discuss and develop a plan for the Missouri AgrAbility posting day as part of the AgrAbility VSF, and it continues to capture soundbites, photos, and videos of Missouri farmers and agriculture to build its media database.

Make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility (@MOAgrAbility) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) and its Missouri AgrAbility collaborative partners on Facebook: [Missouri Beginning Farmers & Ranchers Program](#), [Heroes to Hives of Missouri](#), and [Show-Me Strong Farm Families](#).

Brenda Schreck continues to work with the MO Vocational Rehabilitation case manager in the northeast region of the state on existing MO AgrAbility cases. Brenda is also working with two new clients who started the Mo AgrAbility onsite farmstead process.

Missouri AgrAbility is hosting a collaborative AgrAbility training for Rehab Services for the Blind staff members and outreach workers from Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program at Lincoln University Carver Farm. AgrAbility and onsite farmstead training is hosted by Lincoln University of Missouri.

Pharm to Farm, a Missouri AgrAbility partner, and UMKC School of Pharmacy has submitted an educational brochure for Missouri AgrAbility clients to educate about safe use of medicine on the farm. The brochure is titled *Mixing Pain Medicine and Heavy*

Machinery, and it addresses the importance of safer medicine alternatives to opioids for farmers with pain conditions.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) marketed the Lincoln University Small Farm Conference to potential Missouri AgrAbility clients who visited the BIA-MO website.

Missouri AgrAbility marketing continued through outreach efforts of the BIA-MO Annual Statewide Conference and Survivor and Family Seminar registration material.

Nebraska

The Nebraska AgrAbility team finally enjoyed in-person interaction with attendees at Husker Harvest Days, the world's largest irrigated working farm show in the nation. Sleep deprivation education was featured as a prelude to harvest. [More](#)



Check out an interview about Nebraska AgrAbility on [The Brownfield Radio Network](#).

"Rehabilitating Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities" was presented virtually to 27 OTs and PTs for continuing education units on September 27. [More](#)

North Carolina

On September 10, NC AgrAbility participated at the Small Farm Unit Cherry Research Farm tour. Dr. Liang and Dr. Jackai shared information about the research at the farm, the introduction of new varieties of vegetables, and some tools that can assist farmers with disabilities. [More](#)

On September 25, staff participated at the North Carolina Horticultural Therapy Conference. There were certified and non-certified HT folks at the meeting that were new to AgrAbility and enjoyed learning about the program, the services AgrAbility provides, and the work that can be developed jointly. [More](#)

Ohio



Ohio AgrAbility staff exhibited at Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, in late September. It was an unusual year - new exhibit space with several OSU Extension programs under the "OSU Big Tent," inclement weather, and a smaller staff and partner presence due to illness and injury. - [More](#)

Pennsylvania

The month of September brought the start of fall, National Farm Safety and Health Week, and lots of planning for upcoming events and activities that will be resuming in Pennsylvania in the months ahead. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA exhibited at the Juniata County Agricultural Fair in conjunction with Penn State Extension, USDA, NRCS, and several other ag-related organizations in early September. It was a new experience for staff and new connections were made.

Staffer Kendra Martin presented to more than 50 attendees across the state that attended the Center for Independent Living (CIL) Virtual Conference in mid-September. [More](#)

Tennessee



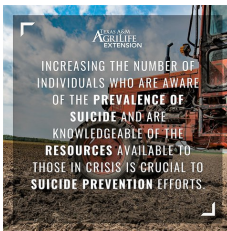
Charley Jordan, AgrAbility friend and veteran-to-ag consultant, has been helping other veterans learn about agricultural benefits with a video and press release in the American Legion. Charley says "If this motivates you to enjoy the benefits of agriculture, then it's mission success for me." [More](#)

Tennessee AgrAbility Project reminded farmers that "Farm Safety Yields Real Results" during National Farm Health and Safety Week. TNAP staff shared the farm safety and health webinars from National AgrAbility's partner AgriSafe.

Texas

Texas AgrAbility promoted National Farm Safety and Health Week through social media. Daily topics and information were shared through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Texas AgrAbility had a booth at the 2nd Annual Southeast Texas Ag Summit. Staff members networked with local agriculture producers and shared information on AgrAbility and secondary injury prevention.



Staff posted an educational blog for National Suicide Prevention Month titled "How You Can Educate Yourself & Others During National Suicide Prevention Month." The post explores prevalence of suicide in the farming and veteran populations and how people can educate themselves to help prevent suicide. Check it out [here](#).

The BattleGround to Breaking Ground program will be accepting applicants for the 11th cohort starting on October 4, 2021. Interested applicants can visit <https://txagrability.tamu.edu/bgbg/training/> for more information.

Texas AgrAbility hosted a webinar titled "Assistive Technology for Farm Workers & their Employers." Ned Stoller joined Elizabeth Gandara-Castillo to highlight types of assistive technology to assist farmworkers with disabilities. Attendees included migrant & Hispanic support organizations and regional assistive technology professionals.



Utah

AgrAbility of Utah was excited to attend Utah State University Extension's Field Day in Cedar City, Utah, on Sept. 1. The event was held to educate farmers and ranchers in the surrounding area, and topics included irrigation techniques and cover crops.

On Sept. 1, AgrAbility of Utah staff attended and set up a display table at the Central Utah Grazing Expo in Richfield, UT. This event was sponsored by Utah State University Extension. This is the second year the Central Utah Grazing Expo has been held.

AgrAbility of Utah staff attended the Cache Interagency Council's hybrid meeting on Sept. 27 in Logan, UT, 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.

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 25 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including three farmers who have received funding from the Easterseals UCP Bellows Fund to purchase assistive technologies.

AgrAbility Virginia Outreach Specialist Liza Dobson will be attending the Brain Injury Association of Virginia Making Headway Conference in Roanoke, Virginia, on November 6 as an exhibitor.

AgrAbility Virginia Program Co-Director Garland Mason will be presenting at the virtual Mid-Atlantic Urban Agriculture Summit on October 12-14.

Staff will be attending and exhibiting for the Small Farms Conference in Roanoke, Virginia, on November 19-20.

AgrAbility Virginia will be participating in the NAP Virtual State Fair on October 6.

Staff helped author a recently published resource: "[Assistive Technologies to Improve Safety and Accessibility on Small Scale Diversified Vegetable Farms & Home Gardens](#)".
Resource Number:ALCE-269NP

Washington



Thanks to great staff, the Spanish promotional flyer was updated and improved!

On September 22, the Washington State AgrAbility Project (WSAP) participated in the PCSGA Shellfish Conference & Tradeshow virtually and promoted the program during a vendor highlight portion of the conference.

WSAP communicated with various county Extension offices to offer an AgrAbility workshop. They also worked with partner Ferry County Extension to discover potential clients in this rural part of the state.

WSAP is working with Cherry Creek Media to develop a native ad campaign. This campaign will run November through January, include a radio interview, and will track site users.

WSAP reached out to Nebraska AgrAbility about utilizing their stretching brochure. Nebraska AgrAbility generously allowed WSAP to utilize their brochure with a few modifications.

Brainstorming and creative posts are being designed to share via WSAP's AgrAbility State Fair day on Oct 28.

Wisconsin

The AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff finished out September and the beginning of October by attending the 2021 World Dairy Expo, held right in Madison, WI. Staff were happy to share their booth with the National AgrAbility Project.



Wisconsin staff will be gathering data for their 2021 advisory council meeting that is planned to be held in-person mid-November.

AgrAbility for Africa

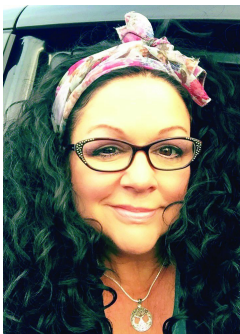


Climate change and environmental destruction are affecting farmers with disabilities hardest in many parts of the world. Many people with disabilities are being forced out of the East Africa fishing industry due to dwindling numbers of fish in the freshwater bodies. [More](#)

Access to rehabilitation therapy is a challenge for many rural farmers, farm workers, and their children across Africa. [More](#)

StaffChanges and Recognition

National AgrAbility



Kimber Nicoletti-Martínez, Latino outreach coordinator for National AgrAbility, was recently awarded a 2021 national Jefferson Award. The awards are given in multiple categories, and Kimber was the only winner for Outstanding Public Service by an Employee. You can view Kimber's virtual award recognition at 29:47 of <https://youtu.be/K8SLYRI1h-0>.

The Jefferson Awards Foundation is a non-profit organization that "recognizes, inspires and activates volunteerism and public service in communities, workplaces and schools across America." (Wikipedia)

Bill Begley, director of sales for Life Essentials, passed away October 7 from COVID-related issues. He was a tireless ambassador for AgrAbility and passionate advocate for farmers and ranchers with disabilities. Bill drove countless miles across the U.S. to share hope and practical solutions with people in need and with professionals working in our field. During his presentations, Bill often told about how his life changed when he first went with his brother on a lift installation – and how he felt a new calling to help farmers and ranchers with disabilities get the technologies that would change their lives too.



Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility welcomes our newest board member, Katie Duvall. She will be representing Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) on our board. Katie is the Advocacy and Policy Development Coordinator at GFB and is a host for the podcast Growing On. We are very excited to have her on our board!

Pennsylvania

CONGRATUATIONS to Dr. Suzanna Windon, AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians' PI, on her new appointment at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences as the director of the college's [Ukrainian Rural and Agricultural Development Program](#). Read an article about her [here](#).

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [AgrAbility helps people with disabilities find success in agriculture](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
- [Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: Rural Realities podcast returns for second season](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [AgrAbility Celebrates 30 Years with Virtual State Fair](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
- [Maine AgrAbility hosts virtual state fair on social media Oct. 20](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
- [AgrAbility Helps a Veteran in Agriculture](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [Maine FishAbility race team to support fishermen's association, Oct. 8](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
- [Resources for producers who face crises events on their operation](#) (Nebraska AgrAbility)

Other News

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

- [Indiana farm fatality summary stresses the importance of farm safety](#)
- [The Effect on Family Farms of Changing Capital Gains Taxation at Death](#)
- [FAO and CIRAD join forces to promote sustainable production of fruit and vegetables](#)
- [Five Safety Questions Farmers Should Ask Before Harvest](#)
- [USDA Launches Resource Guide to Help Rural Communities Seeking Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Assistance](#)
- [NIFA Invests \\$30M to Help Boost Organic Farming and Ranching](#)
- [USDA Expands Farmers.gov to Include Farm Records](#)
- [New guide helps small-scale, year-round shrimp producers succeed in temperate climates](#)
- [USDA Invests \\$700 million to Provide Relief to Small Producers, Processors, Distributors, Farmers Markets and Seafood Processing Vessels and Processors Impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Scientists Trained Cows Where To Pee. It Could Help The Environment](#)

Upcoming Events

[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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October 2021

National AgrAbility Project

AgrAbility Regional Workshop

AgrAbility's next Regional Workshop will be held in Manhattan, Kansas, November 16-18, 2021. Registration is open! Find more information and the link to register on the NAP website under Other Trainings or [click here](#). This workshop will cover topics on suicide prevention, help for farmers in crisis, veterans, VR, business planning, and tips for working smarter not harder. Staff hope to see you in Kansas.



Anyone interested in hosting a Regional Workshop in conjunction with Goodwill and NAP, please contact Tess tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or JoBeth jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org.



2022 NTW will be in person in Madison, WI!!!!

2022 NTW planning is in full swing. The dates are March 14-17. There have been a couple of planning meetings by Zoom and the planning committee will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. ET. Session proposals are due October 11th, so get your proposals in now. The Google Form version of

each of these is at the following links: [Call for Presentations](#) Google form; [Call for Posters](#) Google form; [Exhibitor-Sponsor](#) Google form. Anyone preferring a printable copy of these forms can find them on the NAP website on the [NTW page](#). Davon Goodwin has agreed to be the Keynote Speaker. Read a little bit about Davon [HERE](#).

Please start reaching out to anyone that might want to be a vendor or sponsor, or send Tess their information. Also, start thinking about your state raffle baskets and auction items. Both of these activities help us to bring farmer clients to the NTW.

Anyone wanting to join the Planning Committee or who has any questions about the NTW, contact Tess at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

Chuck Baldwin, National AgrAbility Project's underserved populations outreach coordinator, spoke September 21st to the first International Mobility Device Provision and Distribution conference in Columbia, Missouri. Roughly 50 people from across the USA and from several African and Latin American countries attended the conference.



The need for such a conference was pushed by statistics from FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), the World Bank, and others that show that 80% of people with disabilities live in low-income countries; the number of people with disabilities globally will double by 2050; 70 million people need wheelchairs globally; less than 5% of those in need have access to a wheelchair.

The conference was hosted by Mobility Worldwide (<https://mobilityworldwide.org/>), a Christian non-profit organization serving the needs of people with mobility deficiencies in developing



countries. Speakers included professionals in every aspect of mobility for the physically impaired, including:

- Dr. Jon Pearlman, PhD, Director, [International Society of Wheelchair Professionals](#)
- Dr. Amos Winter, PhD, MIT & Inventor of the [Leveraged Freedom Chair](#)
- Don Schoendorfer, Founder, [Free Wheelchair Mission](#)
- Karen Rispin, Project Manager, [Assistive Technology Catalyst Project](#)
- Eric Wunderlich, Manager [Disabilities Program](#), [Latter-day Saint Charities](#)
- Mark Richard, Founder, [Beeline Wheelchairs](#)
- Michael Panther, Founder, [Living with Hope](#)
- Ibrahim Bangura, Director, [Mobility Sierra Leon](#)
- Mel West, Founder, [Mobility Worldwide](#)

Chuck presented a brief introduction to AgrAbility and AgrAbility's current outreach to countries outside of the United States, then shared how and why AgrAbility would make an excellent partner to any mobility organization serving people with disabilities in developing nations. His primary point was that, while mobility organizations can open the door to a wider world for those who can't walk, AgrAbility can help with the next step of helping those clients become more productive and self-sufficient in agricultural pursuits for the sake of their own life, their families, and their communities.



Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

October 2021

Alaska

Art Nash, Alaska AgrAbility PI, has been working with a couple of partners to continue creating outreach materials around universal design. To accompany past work done on video about making the entryway and bathroom as accessible as possible, the collaboration will be looking at principles of retrofitting the kitchen for successful aging in place. With resources from NIFA, HUD, and the National Extension Healthy Homes Partnership, materials and visual media will be made from this demonstration project.

This work, along with the AARP Community Challenge accessible gardening project and DeShana's managing AgrAbility show concrete efforts to help Alaskans of varying abilities continue to reside in their homes, grow in their gardens, and continue to work at farming, lumbering, and fishing for a living!

DeShana York has been participating in the planning committee for the first annual upcoming Farm Bureau Convention & Tradeshow in conjunction with the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (Western SARE) Conference this November 12-14. The hope is that this new event will bring further education, engagement, and excitement around "all things agriculture" in Alaska. The planning group is seeking vendors and potential presenters, so if you are interested in participating contact DeShana at ddyork@alaska.edu.

Submitted by DeShana York

October 2021

California

California AgrAbility staff participated in the first of three Train the Trainers workshops. The topic of the workshop was "Overview of the Farm Loan Application". Amy Neale, farm loan officer trainee with the USDA Farm Service Agency, provided a detailed overview of the various farm loans, farm programs, and the process for obtaining farm loans for new and established farmers and ranchers. Throughout the presentation, Amy provided tips and informational spreadsheets for those looking for more information or to obtain an FSA farm loan.



California AgrAbility staff joined "Food in the Field", a webinar hosted by AgriSafe celebrating National Farm Safety and Health Week. Presenters from Nebraska Extension introduced their program, "Food in the Field". The program consists of four recorded online lessons and a recipe video. Session one focuses on making small shifts. Presenters explained that busy seasons of

life are not the time for complete eating pattern reconstructions, but they are a great time to get creative in making small shifts to create meals that farmers can enjoy while in the field. One of the small tips shared included making two small shifts to a favorite meal.

California AgrAbility partners from the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Network staffed an informational booth at the Farm Aid concert in Connecticut. This concert is the major fundraising event for Farm Aid, a non-profit agency connecting farmers to resources to support their farm operations and consequently supporting farmer mental health. Staff spoke about the different Farmer Rancher Stress Assistance Projects across the country and modeled box breathing techniques attendees could also try.



Submitted by California AgrAbility

October 2021

Colorado

In September, staff met with the program coordinators of the Denver Botanical Gardens Chatfield teaching facility. They offer veterans a hands-on approach to learning about plant and soil science. Together, the two staffs planned out a three-hour session to raise awareness that farming is not just about putting a hole in the ground, dropping in a seed, and then watering it. Farmers also need to be accountants and financial planners. The veterans in attendance were given tools to explore farm feasibility and sources to seek out and identify land that can be accessed through various ways in addition to outright purchase on the commercial market.

Submitted by Jim Craig

October 2021

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility and the National AgrAbility Project staffed an exhibit at the 2021 Farm Progress Show in the Health and Safety Tent. The Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited Project was the host and organizer of the tent exhibits. The AgrAbility exhibit included Life Essentials and the Gearing Up for Safety Project. The exhibit presented AgrAbility publications and case studies, assistive technology for the farm and ranch, a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift, and contact information for each of the 21 AgrAbility state and regional projects and affiliate projects.

Steve Swain, Indiana AgrAbility rural rehabilitation specialist, presented "Practical AT User Assessments" to the students in the graduate level course Assistive Technology Practice. The presentation was based on the 2021 edition of "Conducting Worksite Assessments." It presented the tool and the practical application of the tool and possible solutions from the Toolbox Assistive Technology Database. The presentation concluded with before and after examples of farm and ranch modifications for many disabilities and environments.

Submitted by Steve Swain

October 2021

Kansas

Occupational therapists (OTs) and certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs) are an important referral source for Kansas AgrAbility. KAP staff provided a session at the annual Kansas OT Association conference on September 24th. Sheila Simmons provided information on typical farm and ranch chores to help OTs and COTAs better understand skills their clients need to continue in an active role in production agriculture. Additionally, information on AgrAbility services and how to make a referral was shared with participants.



Kansas Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended and participated in a tractor cruise in Everest, Kansas, to support a KAP customer and her family. The cruise is an annual fundraiser for the Angelman Syndrome Foundation. The 30-mile cruise included over 30 tractors and took place on paved county roads in northeast Kansas. Larson was lucky to ride with a longtime participant from Beatrice, Nebraska, whose tractor sported a cart with a canopy. To learn more about Angelman Syndrome [click here](#).

Kansas AgrAbility is pleased to host the National AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop November 16-18, 2021, in Manhattan, Kansas. Presentations will include Farm Rescue, Kansas Vocational Rehabilitation, SAVE Farm, US Army Solider Recovery Unit, Business Planning, Working Smarter and with Less Muscle, and QPR (Suicide Prevention Training), and tours to the Wheat Innovation Center, Lazy T Ranch and Konza Prairie. To register, go to [Kansas Regional Conference](#)



Submitted by Tawnie Larson

October 2021

Maine



Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels (B2B) finished the growing season with its last on-farm tour. B2B participants and Maine AgrAbility staff visited Grace Pond Farm in Thomaston, Maine, on September 15th for an in-depth tour of their organic poultry, livestock, and dairy farm.

The field day focused on the history and lessons learned by Grace Pond Farm, and how they are adapting procedures, techniques, and infrastructure to adapt to their own abilities as they age and leave a legacy to transition to their family.



Maine AgrAbility's most recent newsletter features the work of occupational therapists (OTs) and Mainers working in production agriculture. Maine AgrAbility is able to provide on-site visits by staff who are occupational therapists (OTs) to discuss specific situations and make general recommendations for adaptive equipment or techniques. OTs are professional health care providers trained in analyzing work tasks and work patterns and can suggest modifications to work tasks, tools, and equipment to suit the specific needs of individual workers.



In late September, after representing AgrAbility at the Farm Aid Concert in Hartford, CT, WSU Extension Educator Don McMoran came to Maine for a visit with Maine AgrAbility's PD Richard Brzozowski. They unexpectedly met a 68-year-old fisherman using some interesting technology. He uses a drone with a camera to spot pogies (Menhaden - a marine fish of the herring family) which he sells to lobstermen as baitfish. Pogies swim

close to the surface. By spotting them from a distance, the fisherman is able to save time and energy in making a netted catch.

Submitted by Lani Carlson

October 2021

Nebraska

The Nebraska AgrAbility team finally enjoyed in-person interaction with attendees at Husker Harvest Days, the world's largest irrigated working farm show in the nation. Sleep deprivation education was featured as a prelude to harvest. Several clients joined the NE staff to chat with passers-by, and a few potential clients were interacting. Pictured is Will Meyer, talking to kids about his journey and how grateful he was for AgrAbility stepping in and talking with him about how he could still farm.



"Rehabilitating Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities" was presented virtually to 27 OTs and PTs for continuing education units on September 27. The program is designed to help these health care providers become more competent in their care for the agricultural population they see on a regular basis. The Nebraska AgrAbility team partners with Christine Hutchinson, PT, DPT, as lead instructor for this annual event.

Submitted by Susan Harris

October 2021

North Carolina

On September 10, NC AgrAbility participated at the Small Farm Unit Cherry Research Farm tour. Dr. Liang and Dr. Jackai shared information about the research at the farm, the introduction of new varieties of vegetables, and some tools that can assist farmers with disabilities. Forty farmers joined the event and learned about the NC AgrAbility program.

On September 25, staff participated at the North Carolina Horticultural Therapy Conference. Thirty-eight people attended the event. There were certified and non-certified HT folks at the meeting that were new to AgrAbility and enjoyed learning about the program, the services AgrAbility provides, and the work that can be developed jointly.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

October 2021

Ohio



Ohio AgrAbility staff exhibited at Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, in late September. It was an unusual year - new exhibit space with several OSU Extension programs under the "OSU Big Tent", inclement weather, and a smaller staff and partner presence due to illness and injury - but AgrAbility staff and farmers are resilient, and enjoyed interacting with visitors, farmers, and stakeholders. One highlight of the show was

meeting with Austin Heil, an OSU grad who hosted a charity bike ride, "Cursive Bike Adventure", Labor Day weekend and raised \$2600 for Ohio AgrAbility. Austin was excited to support Ohio AgrAbility and pledged to work with AgrAbility staff and students to make next year's bike adventure even bigger and better.

Submitted by Laura Akgerman

October 2021

Pennsylvania

The month of September brought the start of fall, National Farm Safety and Health Week, and lots of planning for upcoming events and activities that will be resuming in Pennsylvania in the months ahead. AgrAbility PA is prepping for its upcoming Advisory Board Meeting in mid-October as partners, stakeholders, and colleagues collaborate to discuss new and exciting opportunities and advancements for the AgrAbility PA project.

Staffer Kendra Martin presented to more than 50 attendees across the state that attended the Center for Independent Living (CIL) Virtual Conference in mid-September. Kendra was grateful to Bill Burke, a farmer who recently worked with AgrAbility PA, as he shared his story and interaction with the project with the conference attendees. It brought a meaningful component to the presentation and the attendees filled the chat box with questions and comments of praise for Bill.

Submitted by Kendra Martin

October 2021

Tennessee

Charley Jordan, AgrAbility friend and veteran-to-ag consultant, has been helping other veterans learn about agricultural benefits with a video and press release in the American Legion. Charley says "If this motivates you to enjoy the benefits of agriculture, then it's mission success for me. Agriculture has been a lifesaver for me and I'll be forever grateful." You can also view the American Legion video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnrU8yOVbiM>.



Charley also made the cover of the American Legion magazine. Members can view the clickable digi-mag through MyLegion.org.

Thank you, Charley, for helping your fellow veterans. Charley stated, "If you're a vet out there and this is bothering you, I want to reach out to you and say hey, find some help. I tell every veteran, break the stigma go get help. I go get help every week or every two weeks. We're here to help and I just want all the veterans to know your service over in Afghanistan wasn't in vein." <https://fox17.com/.../tennessee-veteran-weighs-in-on...>

Submitted by Joette White

October 2021

AgrAbility for Africa



Climate change and environmental destruction are effecting farmers with disabilities hardest in many parts of the world. Many people with disabilities are being forced out of the East Africa fishing industry due to dwindling numbers of fish in the freshwater bodies. In response to the challenges, AgrAbility for Africa has teamed up with Uganda Junior Rangers, an environmental education organization, and Aquaculture Research and Development Center (KARDC), an aquaculture research organization in Uganda, to expand and extend aquaculture farming as an alternative accessible farming practice. The partnering organizations will run joint marine education "for children" and support aquaculture project development as an alternative source of income for people faced with disabilities; all in the quest to enhance opportunities for alternative employment for farmers, ranchers, and farm workers impacted by physical limitations.

Access to rehabilitation therapy is a challenge for many rural farmers, farm workers, and their children across Africa. In an effort to badge the gap, on September 23rd, the AgrAbility for Africa staff held a meeting with the administration of Our Lady of Cosolata Kisubi Catholic Hospital in Entebbe, Uganda, to explore the possibility of collaborating to expand care and access for the targeted populations.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

October 2021

Upcoming Events

- Name** Sunbelt Ag Expo
Dates October 19-21, 2021
City, State Moultrie, Georgia
Contact Info/Web link <https://sunbeltexpo.com/>
- Name** National AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop
Dates November 16-18, 2021
City, State Manhattan, Kansas
Contact Info/Web link To register, go to [Kansas Regional Conference](#).
- Name** Eastern Regional Farmer Veteran Coalition Conference: "Farm to Market: Opportunity Knocks"
Dates November 16-19, 2021
City, State Knoxville, Tennessee
Contact Info/Web link <https://conference.farmvetco.org/>
- Name** Online Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program
Dates January 2022
City, State Online
Contact Info/Web link Dr. Derrick Stowell [dstowell@tennessee.edu/](mailto:dstowell@tennessee.edu)
<https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/horticulturaltherapy.../>
- Name** MSU AGR Beef Preview Show
Dates February 11-13, 2022
City, State East Lansing, Michigan
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.facebook.com/AgrBeefPreviewShow/>