

AgrAbility e•Note

November 2021

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

USDA's FY '22 RFA for SRAPs has been released, and applications are due Thursday, January 13, 2022. [More](#)

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, information on current and upcoming initiatives, and a presentation from [Farm Rescue](#).

Regional workshops:

- The next regional workshop gets underway in Manhattan, Kansas, November 16-18. This workshop is covering topics on suicide prevention, help for farmers in crisis, veterans, VR, business planning, and tips for working smarter not harder.
- Staff are just starting to plan a regional workshop with OH AgrAbility for June 2022 in Columbus, OH. More information to come.
- Anyone thinking they might be interested in hosting a Regional Workshop in conjunction with Goodwill and NAP, please contact Tess tmckee@goodwillfingerlakes.org or JoBeth jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org.



AgrAbility/North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center webinar: "Strategies for Preventing Farm/Ranch Suicides and for Assisting Those Left Behind." Tuesday, November 30, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET. [More](#)

On Tuesday, November 16, at 2:00 p.m. ET, Cindy Chastain and Paul Jones are scheduled to present a webinar for the [ADA National Network](#): "Agriculture as The Next Mission for Military Veterans of All Abilities." [Registration ends TODAY here.](#)

NTW updates:

- The link to make hotel reservations is live. Click [HERE](#) or go to the [NTW page](#) on the NAP website. [More](#)
- The Call for Proposals deadline has passed and staff are finalizing the schedule. The NTW website is being updated and will be available soon.
- Please start reaching out to anyone who might want to be a vendor or sponsor, or send Tess their information. Here is the link to the [Exhibitor-](#)



[Sponsor Google form.](#) [More](#)

- Also, start thinking about state raffle baskets and auction items. Both of these activities help bring farmer clients to the NTW.
- Anyone wanting to join the planning committee or having any questions about the NTW, contact Tess at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org.



The National AgrAbility Project collaborated with eight other health and safety projects for a display at the 2021 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The display was staffed by NAP staff members and included a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift and AgrAbility publications and case studies. [More](#)

Toolbox Spotlight

Herding a cow into a small pen then restraining it to help deliver the calf and/or aid in nursing can be difficult and dangerous, requiring quick movement and strength. A [Calving/Maternity Pen](#), consisting of steel-tubed panels, automatic head-gate, sweep-gate, and rear-access door, is designed to solve this problem. The sweep-gate has a lower level that can be opened to give the new-born access to nurse, and the rear-access door is designed to provide safer entry to assist with delivery, if necessary.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

Staff virtually attended and provided handouts for attendees at the Disability and Aging Summit hosted by Special Olympics of Alaska. [More](#)

Assistive Technology of Alaska offered a free virtual "Tech Hour" focusing on assistive technology for everyday independence. The next Tech Hour will be on accessible agriculture on November 16th at 11:00 a.m. AKT. Join them for this informal chat at <https://tinyurl.com/ye9wnkq6>.

Alaska AgrAbility's quarterly e-newsletter was distributed on October 22. Resources for employment in agriculture, Alaskan foot health, noteworthy assistive technology, and upcoming events were covered. Read it now by clicking [here](#).

Alaska participated in the National AgrAbility Virtual State Fair October 25 hosting the Facebook and Twitter pages. This opportunity allowed for increased social media exposure. The team enjoyed highlighting some fun Alaska facts and clients during the fair.



DeShana York continued to assist on the planning committee for the 1st Annual Farm Bureau Convention & Tradeshow that took place in Anchorage, Alaska, November 12-14. [More](#)

California



California AgrAbility staff participated in the second California Coming Together Conference of the year presented by their partner agency, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), and California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). [More](#)

California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network quarterly meeting. Montana State University (MSU) assistant professors Drs. Michelle Grocke and Alison Brennan shared findings from WRASAP's Agriculture Producer Baseline Survey... [More](#)



Throughout the month of October, California AgrAbility staff participated in the National AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF), sharing posts on the VSF Twitter and Facebook pages. [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff attended the first UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) monthly seminar of the fall season. [More](#)

Colorado

Colorado AgrAbility staff had a busy month in October; however, most of the time expended was on grants and administrative matters. Staff were very fortunate to have been able to re-visit some old clients and share their stories in the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair. As many SRAPs do, Colorado has clients that staff still follow, even if from afar, that go back to the project's beginning.

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the Sunbelt Ag Expo, an agricultural-based trade show held in Moultrie, GA. The event has more than 1200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology. [More](#)

On October 21, Georgia AgrAbility took over the National AgrAbility's Virtual State Fair page in celebration for AgrAbility's 30th year! Staff posted AT highlights, inspirational quotes from clients, farmer stories,

and more!

Did you know Georgia produces over 50% of the peanuts in the United States? Dr. Glen Rains was recently filmed talking about precision agriculture for a Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) show called "Live Exploration: Georgia Peanuts." [More](#)



Georgia AgrAbility will be attending the Troup County Ag Day on November 6. [More](#)

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgVets Project, and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Indiana hosted an event for farmer veterans on October 9th at the Porter Farm in Danville, Indiana. [More](#)

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) staff was joined at a recent meeting by the Kansas USDA-NRCS conservationist to gain knowledge on NRCS programs and how they can assist KAP customers that may benefit from some sustainability practices through grants and other options available.

Kansas AgrAbility AT Ag Specialist Lesa Whitson and ATK Training Coordinator Sheila Simmons shared how AgrAbility can assist members of the Western Way Kansas Cowboy

Church and its community.

KAP Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended the K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference and participated in a workshop titled "For Us All: Creating Thriving and Healthy Communities," which is based on the [Cooperative Extension's National Framework for Health Equity and Well-Being](#). [More](#)

Maine

Maine AgrAbility's program "Boots-2-Bushels" (B2B) finished up the 2021 growing season with two sessions of farm coaching discussing effective communication between farm partners and employees. [More](#)



Level 2 OT fieldwork student Michaela Marden has authored Maine AgrAbility's latest article "[Maine FishAbility: rotator cuff injuries](#)" for the November 2021 issue of Commercial Fisheries News. [More](#)

To increase the capacity and access of the Maine AgrAbility program, staff developed a training program to create [Maine AgrAbility Ambassadors](#) (MAAs). [More](#)

Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused their social media efforts on program promotion for MU Extension and partner program, resources for AgrAbility clients, and the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF). [More](#)

Brenda and Karen continue to work on several Vocational Rehabilitation AgrAbility cases in the northeast region. [More](#)

The grain bin rescue demonstration was an engaging safety activity for people of all ages at the 2021 Farmfest in Springfield, Missouri. Farmfest is an annual farm show that boasts approximately 800 booths and 500 registered livestock displayed for thousands of attendees over three days. [More](#)



Missouri AgrAbility marketing in cooperation with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) attended the Annual Statewide Conference and Survivor and Family Seminar on October 7 - 9, 2021. [More](#)

Nebraska

A diverse team, including two Nebraska AgrAbility team members, a Nebraska AgrAbility Advisory Board member/peer support member, and the program manager from National AgrAbility, collaborated to present at the annual National Amputee Coalition Conference. [More](#)

The team participated in the Virtual State Fair. It has been educational and fun to see what each state is doing within their AgrAbility teams - great job to everyone involved - and a big thank-you to the Nebraska team for their hard work and help to put together different sections.

Specialists have been working with clients on the Ag AT Fund; still trying to work out the kinks, but very excited to see some clients become more independent with the technology this fund can help provide them.

November is gearing up to be busy with events, and staff members are busy preparing for conferences and outreach events.

North Carolina

On October 5, NC AgrAbility sponsored the AgrAbility 30 Years Virtual State Fair. [More](#)

At the NC State Extension Conference on October 26, the NC AgrAbility Partnership presented "Addressing Limitations in Agriculture: NC AgrAbility Partnership." Fifteen Extension agents and directors from various counties attended the event. This presentation was part of a training to become AgrAbility Ambassadors.



On October 28, NC AgrAbility Partnership presented at the NC Rehabilitation Association 65th Annual and 1st Virtual Training Conference. [More](#)

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff enjoyed participating in the 2nd annual Virtual State Fair, and always enjoys seeing the farmers, staff, and successes from all SRAPs.

On October 18, Rural Rehabilitation Coordinator Rachel Jarman was interviewed by Rob Sharkey on Shark Farmer radio that airs on XM147, Rural Radio. [More](#)



Ohio AgrAbility is grateful for the people and organizations that support them, as well as the writers at OSU College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who share the AgrAbility story and who recently wrote about OSU CFAES alumnus Austin Heil who organized the Cursive Ohio Bike Adventure fundraiser to benefit Ohio AgrAbility.

Pennsylvania

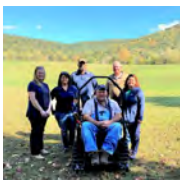
October was a full month for AgrAbility PA. Staff members were able to meet in-person with the AgrAbility PA Advisory Board. [More](#)

Project Director Suzanna Windon and graduate assistant Carolyn Henzi have presented on the topic of "Managing Stress on the Farm" to various groups this fall including Spanish-speaking farm supervisors, farmers, and ag workers on October 21. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA participated in the 2nd annual AgrAbility Virtual State Fair. The month-long social media event provided information on farming with a disability or a health condition to audiences nationwide. Thanks for including Pennsylvania and thanks to all the fellow SRAPs for joining in.



Tennessee



TN AgrAbility was deeply saddened by Bill Begley's death and remembers this friend who will be greatly missed! He made a huge difference helping farmers with mobility challenges obtain Life Essential lifts and their independence. Bill cared for his farmers' success and checked in with them to see how they were doing. [More](#)

It was wonderful to see all the great things happening across the USA

with AgrAbility and all the farmers' stories shared during the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the #AgrAbility VSF a success.



Wayne County livestock producer Dennis Martin remarked, "Thank you isn't enough to say to TN AgrAbility for how much they helped me on my farm. Before my side-by-side, I felt so helpless." His wife, Kerri, added, "In essence, AgrAbility has given Dennis his legs back." Read the article about them [HERE](#).

TNAP exhibited at Ag in the Foothills and networking lunch with the Farmer Veteran Coalition of TN at East TN AgResearch and Education Center (ETREC).



Meet Amanda Mathenia, UT Extension county director/farmer/TNAP farmer. [Click here](#) to view video.



Staff spoke to the Gibson County Youth/Adult Leadership class on the AgrAbility program.

Come visit TNAP at the upcoming Farmer Veteran Coalition Eastern Regional Conference that starts November 17 in Knoxville, TN. The countdown is on! Register at:

<https://conference.farmvetco.org/registration/>

Texas

Texas AgrAbility hosted an educational webinar titled "Promoting Independent Living in Rural Communities" on November 10. [More](#)

Texas AgrAbility's advisory committee met for the quarterly meeting to review programs and plan upcoming year programs and events. The advisory committee consists of agency partners, community organizations, and clients.

A farm visit was conducted in partnership with Sam Houston State University for an amputee farmer who needs access to his tractor. Texas AgrAbility will be working with SHSU ag mechanics for the tractor modifications.

Applications for the BattleGround to Breaking Ground program close December 1. For more information on the program and how to apply, visit:

<https://txagrability.tamu.edu/bgbg/training/>.

An in-person agriculture business workshop is being planned for January 28, 2022, in the Houston area. [More](#)

Utah

On October 25, AgrAbility of Utah was able to attend and explain AgrAbility to members of the Cache Interagency Council in Logan, Utah. The mission 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.

AgrAbility of Utah is planning and looking forward to its advisory board meeting that will be held the first of next month.

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 28 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including a small-scale urban farmer in Richmond who has had 13 knee surgeries and has trouble bending down. [More](#)

The advisory group met on Tuesday October 26 to discuss new clients, outreach materials, and plans for 2022. DARS rehab engineer Tom Rybak and DARS advisory group member John Allen presented a tractor step extension being developing for an AgrAbility Virginia client. [More](#)



AgrAbility Virginia participated in the NAP Virtual State Fair on October 6 with 10 posts highlighting recent publications, client stories, and field staff introductions.



AgrAbility Virginia staff traveled to Moultrie, GA, in October to showcase the AgrAbility Virginia project and the Virginia State University Mobile Agriculture Education Unit at the Sunbelt Ag Expo where Virginia was the Spotlight State.

Virginia Cooperative Extension 4H volunteer and AgrAbility Virginia intern Zoey Van Peppen collaborated with AgrAbility Virginia staff to publish a promotional video geared toward youth across the state. It is available on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter at [@AgrAbilityVA](#).

AgrAbility Virginia staff will be attending several in-person events in November, including: [More](#)

AgrAbility Virginia staff recently updated three publications, all available on their website under resources. [More](#)

Washington

WSAP is working with Cherry Creek Media to develop a native ad campaign . This campaign will run November 1 through January 31, include a radio interview, and will track site users. Audience is targeted in 10 rural Washington state communities. The goal is to increase requests for AgrAbility information using digital advertising.

WSAP participated in the National AgrAbility Virtual State Fair on October 28 with six posts, including simple solutions, partnerships, toolbox highlight, lending library, and WSAP's Spanish translation services.

One of WSAP's partners, Northwest Access Fund, hosted a workshop titled "Tools for managing medical debt" on November 3. WSAP promoted this event and attended the virtual webinar.

WSAP is planning and preparing for three, one-hour workshops at various commodity group conventions; one titled "Aching Hands and Stomped-On Feet," and another titled "Assistive Technology for Working Farmers."

Wisconsin

Staff at AgrAbility of Wisconsin went on a farm visit to shoot a commercial for a Madison-based TV station. A lot of footage was captured and will be used for multiple videos in the future. Staff are currently gathering information for their annual advisory council meeting that will be held on November 16 in-person again.



International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa



When faced with disabilities, the level of active participation in rehabilitation care and support plays a significant role in results achieved. With continued easing of movement restrictions, the AgrAbility for Africa staff have increased community outreach initiatives to boost farmer and farmworker knowledge and engagement in their own care.

[More](#)

It is fact that when stress overwhelms the nervous system, the body goes into threat physiology, a state of sustained fight or flight that makes one seriously ill. With the curtailed social connection, digital divide in rural Africa, and technology being unable to bridge the gap for a big percentage of the rural population, mental health has deteriorated for many farmers and their children in Africa. [More](#)

StaffChanges and Recognition

Alaska

The AKAgrAbility team is sad to report that Erin Main, AKAgrAbility occupational therapist, left our project on October 19. The team would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for all that Erin has done to enhance the program and the amazing work with our clients. She will continue to be a resource for the project as time allows, and has a passion for the project and expanding work in Green Care. We wish Erin well and look forward to working with her in the future!

Tennessee

Meet Finis Stribling. He was awarded the Central Region TAAA&S Adult Ag Agent Award for 2021. Finis and his work with TN AgrAbility and the New Farmer Academy are very valuable, and he definitely deserves this award.

[Tennessee New Farmer Academy - YouTube](#)
[Tennessee New Farmer Academy](#) (tnstate.edu)



Washington

WSAP lost Kate Seymour, grant coordinator and integral team member, who returned to her home state of Michigan to be closer to family. She will be missed greatly as she was such a valuable team member, but WSAP is excited for her future!

AgrAbilityin the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [NIFA Celebrates AgrAbility's 30 Year Anniversary](#) (AgrAbility)

- [Nicoletti-Martínez honored with national Jefferson Award](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [NIFA Invests in Research to Accommodate People with Disabilities Working in Agriculture](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project, Ohio AgrAbility Project, AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, Tennessee AgrAbility Project)
- [Assistive technology for medically impaired agricultural workers](#) (Alaska AgrAbility Project, Michigan AgrAbility Project, National AgrAbility Project)
- [Farm Rescue expands to Kansas; Hinrichsen leads state effort](#) (AgrAbility)
- [New power chair puts young farmer at the heart of his family's pumpkin patch](#) (Michigan AgrAbility)
- [Riding for farmers who can't](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
- [How Tennessee AgrAbility Helps Farmers With Physical Challenges](#) (Tennessee AgrAbility Project)
- [Farming Show 10 – 3- 2021](#) (Washington State AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Virtual State Fair provides resources for farmers with disabilities](#) (Multiple AgrAbility Projects that participated in the VSF)
- [Ferris highlights Disability Awareness Month activities](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [#agrabilityvsf](#) (Multiple AgrAbility Projects)
- [Emily Freudenburg and Andrew Jacobson](#) (Nebraska AgrAbility)
- [Classes and Workshops: Subject Matter: “Continuing the Conversation” about suicide and opioid misuse in rural Colorado](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [BattleGround to Breaking Ground program now taking applications](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
- [Local Veterans & Military Families Making A Difference In Agriculture](#) (Texas AgrAbility)

OtherNews

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

- A new farm health program is being evaluated by the nurses at the University of Michigan. The program focuses on noise exposure and will help uncover ways to protect the health of farmers and their families. Based on conversations with the farmer, a trained coach will provide guidance tailored to the specific needs of the farmer. Reach out to Keane Trautner, RN, at keanelee@umich.edu for more information about the program.
- [Jackie Allenbrand of P.H.A.R.M. Dog USA launches new children's book: *Four-Legged Farm Hand*, November 18](#)
- [USDA Announces Scholars Programs for Students at Historically Black and Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Planting faster, more efficiently and with started plants – not seeds](#)
- [USDA Builds Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations](#)
- [NIFA Invests Over \\$3.5M to Develop Food, Agriculture and Farm Safety Education for Youth in Underserved Communities](#)
- [As-needed pesticide use brings wild bees, increases watermelon yield without reducing corn profits](#)
- [NIFA invests nearly \\$25M in Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network](#)
- [USDA Announces Over \\$243M in Grants Awarded to Strengthen the Specialty Crop Industry](#)
- [Reasons for optimism as U.S. agriculture heads into 2022](#)
- [Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?](#)



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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November 2021

National AgrAbility Project

NTW updates

- The link to make hotel reservations is live. Click [HERE](#) or go to the [NTW page](#) on the NAP website. Reservations may also be made by calling the hotel at 800-356-8293 and giving them reference code 942171, or by letting them know of the reservation is for the 2022 AgrAbility National Training Workshop.
- Please start reaching out to anyone who might want to be a vendor or sponsor, or send Tess their information. Here is the link to the [Exhibitor-Sponsor Google form](#). For anyone preferring a printable copy of this form, it is available on the NAP website on the [NTW page](#).



Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes



The National AgrAbility Project collaborated with eight other health and safety projects for a display at the 2021 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The display was staffed by NAP staff members and included a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift and AgrAbility publications and case studies. Students, FFA members, parents, and FFA advisors were encouraged

to visit with each of the exhibits, get a card stamped, and receive a safety exhibit T-shirt. Approximately 4,000 T-shirts were distributed.



Submitted by Steve Swain

November 2021

Alaska

Staff virtually attended and provided handouts for attendees at the Disability and Aging Summit hosted by Special Olympics of Alaska. The goal of the Aging and Disability Summit is to further discuss the national and state trends regarding the aging population, to include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and how they relate to Alaska.

DeShana York continued to assist on the planning committee for the 1st Annual Farm Bureau Convention & Tradeshow that took place in Anchorage, Alaska, November 12-14. AgrAbility had presentations and participated in the tradeshow. More information on that to come. This was a very excited opportunity to highlight the project and the national relationship with the Farmer Veteran Coalition since the event directly followed Veterans Day!

Submitted by DeShana York

November 2021

California



California AgrAbility staff participated in the second California Coming Together Conference of the year presented by their partner agency, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), and California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). Keynote speaker Dr. Dilip Jeste, a geriatric neuropsychiatrist specializing in successful aging, discussed the impact of social isolation and loneliness on mental health. Throughout the conference, staff participated in workshops focused on topics such as veteran behavioral health across the lifetime, COVID-19 and behavioral health, and behavioral health and AT.

California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network quarterly meeting. Montana State University (MSU) assistant professors Drs. Michelle Grocke and Alison Brennan shared findings from WRASAP's Agriculture Producer Baseline Survey and recommendations for WRASAP partners and agencies providing services to farmers. The MSU team generated baseline reports of their findings and recommendations for the 13 states and territories in the region.



Throughout the month of October, California AgrAbility staff participated in the National AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF), sharing posts on the VSF Twitter and Facebook pages. Posts focused on family caregivers in agriculture, mental health in farm working communities, and the DICE approach, a tool in the National Assistive Technology Act Data System device lending library aimed at helping caregivers for people with dementia. An interview with California AgrAbility's director Dr. Fadi Fathallah, in which he discussed the importance of improving the health and safety of agricultural workers, was also shared.

California AgrAbility staff attended the first UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS) monthly seminar of the fall season. Presenters from the University of California, Davis and San Francisco discussed key findings from a two-phase qualitative study. Presenters emphasized the importance of using information gathered from participant interviews throughout the study to develop and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 resources for Punjabi-speaking farmworkers in California.

Submitted by California AgrAbility

November 2021

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the Sunbelt Ag Expo, an agricultural-based trade show held in Moultrie, GA. The event has more than 1200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology. Staff was excited to have Virginia AgrAbility and Tennessee AgrAbility join them in their exhibit space! In addition, GA AgrAbility had Life Essentials, Action Trackchair, and Ghost Controls showcase assistive technology.



Did you know Georgia produces over 50% of the peanuts in the United States? Dr. Glen Rains was recently filmed talking about precision agriculture for a Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) show called "Live Exploration: Georgia Peanuts." The show is a great way for children to learn about farming peanuts, the role peanuts play in our economy, and the technology it takes to make Georgia one of the world's largest peanut producers.



Georgia AgrAbility will be attending the Troup County Ag Day on November 6. The day will celebrate the opening of the new ag center in Troup county, which has asked GA AgrAbility to showcase the Mobile Learning Lab so people in their community can learn more about the services that AgrAbility provides and experience assistive technology firsthand.

Submitted by Whitney Paige Ostrander

November 2021

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgVets Project, and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Indiana hosted an event for farmer veterans on October 9th at the Porter Farm in Danville, Indiana. The event included presentations by Dr Betty Feng on food safety, Ed Sheldon on the Indiana AgVets project, Cindy Chastain on AgrAbility, and Sara Creech on the FVC-IN plans and how veterans can get involved. A farm tour included a demonstration of how to build a rain garden as well as discussions on the other farm activities; beekeeping, sheep, Scottish Highland cattle, meat chickens, raised garden beds, and more! The event included a barbeque lunch, and many stayed afterwards for networking and a social event.

Submitted by Cindy Chastain

November 2021

Kansas

Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) staff was joined at a recent meeting by the Kansas USDA-NRCS conservationist to gain knowledge on NRCS programs and how they can assist KAP customers that may benefit from some sustainability practices through grants and other options available.

Kansas AgrAbility AT Ag Specialist Lesa Whitson and ATK Training Coordinator Sheila Simmons shared how AgrAbility can assist members of the Western Way Kansas Cowboy Church and its community.

KAP Coordinator Tawnie Larson attended the K-State Research and Extension Annual Conference and participated in a workshop titled "For Us All: Creating Thriving and Healthy Communities," which is based on the [Cooperative Extension's National Framework for Health Equity and Well-Being](#). Dr. Ed Ehlinger, former Minnesota commissioner of health, past president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and acting chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, set the framework for the workshop that focused on health equity throughout the world.

Submitted by Tawnie Larson

November 2021

Maine

Maine AgrAbility's program "Boots-2-Bushels" (B2B) finished up the 2021 growing season with two sessions of farm coaching discussing effective communication between farm partners and employees. The season has been remarkable working with veterans learning to farm in Maine.

"This has been an amazing journey into the world of farming. (We) have learned so much, we met wonderful people, and toured the best of Maine's farms. Here's to Boots -2-Bushels!!!!" (B2B student)



Level 2 OT fieldwork student Michaela Marden has authored Maine AgrAbility's latest article "[Maine FishAbility: rotator cuff injuries](#)" for the November 2021 issue of Commercial Fisheries News. Having Michaela work with staff for the past 12 weeks has been jam-packed full of learning, program development, and fun, including a virtual marathon. As a FishAbility effort, five staff members ran the Maine Marathon relay race on

October 8, a beautiful, sunny, warm day! Staff raised \$755 for the [Fishermen Wellness program](#).

To increase the capacity and access of the Maine AgrAbility program, staff developed a training program to create [Maine AgrAbility Ambassadors](#) (MAAs). An MAA is an individual who is trained and informed about AgrAbility and its mission, and someone who promotes Maine AgrAbility to the people in their circle of influence. In the inaugural year, staff are training 19 MAAs about AgrAbility resources and efforts.

Submitted by Lani Carlson

November 2021

Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused their social media efforts on program promotion for MU Extension and partner program, resources for AgrAbility clients, and the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF). Additionally, Missouri AgrAbility continues to capture sound bites, photos, and videos of Missouri farmers and agriculture 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](#).

Brenda and Karen continue to work on several Vocational Rehabilitation AgrAbility cases in the northeast region. This month, three new AgrAbility clients have required paperwork filled out and are waiting to hear from Vocational Rehabilitation about eligibility. Karen Funkenbusch, MO AgrAbility director, and Brenda Schreck, MO AgrAbility outreach coordinator and county engagement specialist in livestock and 4-H youth development, also completed an AgrAbility client walkabout and put the final touches on the Level I Onsite Farmstead Assessment Report.

The grain bin rescue demonstration was an engaging safety activity for people of all ages at the 2021 Farmfest in Springfield, Missouri. Farmfest is an annual farm show that boasts approximately 800 booths and 500 registered livestock displayed for thousands of attendees over three days. Safety resources were also disseminated during the MU Extension



hands-on demonstration consisting of individuals pulling on a rope to see how many pounds of force they were able to pull out of the grain bin. Many of the people who tried the grain bin rescue pull were shocked by how much force it would take to pull someone out of a grain bin. Many other individuals commented on people they knew that had been killed or injured in a grain bin engulfment.

Submitted by Tevin Umlaut, Elizabeth Picking, Brenda Schreck, and Karen Funkenbusch

Missouri AgrAbility marketing in cooperation with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) attended the Annual Statewide Conference and Survivor and Family Seminar on October 7 - 9, 2021. Marketing at these in-person educational programs included signage, exhibit space, and recognition during the event "welcomes" as the Resources in Rural Missouri track sponsor. In addition, Missouri AgrAbility client Carey Portell was a keynote presenter for the professionals, survivors of brain injury, and family audience. These activities reached more than 150 individuals who became aware of Missouri AgrAbility through these activities.



Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

November 2021

Nebraska

A diverse team, including two Nebraska AgrAbility team members, a Nebraska AgrAbility Advisory Board member/peer support member, and the program manager from National AgrAbility, collaborated to present at the annual National Amputee Coalition Conference. It was originally scheduled to be in-person in Chicago, but the conference switched to virtual mode and the presentation took place via Zoom. This connection led to the Limb Loss Resource Center indicating they will feature AgrAbility via the [Amputee Coalition web site](#).

Submitted by Susan Harris

November 2021

North Carolina

On October 5, NC AgrAbility sponsored the AgrAbility 30 Years Virtual State Fair. NC AgrAbility promoted the event through Facebook and other social media with partners and collaborators across the state. It was an excellent opportunity to share and receive feedback from many farmers, staff, and stakeholders across the nation.

On October 28, NC AgrAbility Partnership presented at the NC Rehabilitation Association 65th Annual and 1st Virtual Training Conference. The session name was "Agriculture: A Critical and Vital Occupation." The webinar was attended by 161 participants who had the opportunity to learn about the main differences between farming and other occupations, solutions for farmers with disabilities, and the importance of collaborative work.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

November 2021

Ohio

On October 18, Rural Rehabilitation Coordinator Rachel Jarman was interviewed by Rob Sharkey on Shark Farmer radio that airs on XM147, Rural Radio. They discussed AgrAbility, how the program helps farmers, and how many active projects there are currently. They also discussed how farmers can get in touch with projects, and how family members can help farmers get information if they seem disinterested at first but could really benefit.

The radio interview led to Rob wanting to feature Ohio farmer Kane Lewis in a segment on his TV show, Shark Farmer TV on RFD TV. Kane will be featured on an episode in Season 4 of Shark Farmer TV, which is Rob's take on TOSH.0 (a television series that formerly aired on Comedy Central)) but with agriculture pictures and videos.

Submitted by Laura Akgerman

November 2021

Pennsylvania

October was a full month for AgrAbility PA. Staff members were able to meet in-person with the AgrAbility PA Advisory Board. It was great to be together! There was lots of discussion on ways to take certain aspects of the project from good to great. This board provides important insight and feedback to staff members. Their contributions are much appreciated.

Project Director Suzanna Windon and graduate assistant Carolyn Henzi have presented on the topic of "Managing Stress on the Farm" to various groups this fall including Spanish-speaking farm supervisors, farmers, and ag workers on October 21. The duo also presented the research poster, "Assessing Farmers' Stress and Career Commitment During Pandemic: A Pilot Study," at the North Central American Association for Agricultural Education in Columbus, OH. The poster earned 2nd place for outstanding research poster.

Submitted by Kendra Martin

November 2021

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility was deeply saddened by Bill Begley's death and remembers this friend who will be greatly missed! He made a huge difference helping farmers with mobility challenges obtain Life Essential lifts and their independence. Bill cared for his farmers' success and checked in with them to see how they were doing. Bill walked TN partners through the steps and was instrumental in helping get Michael Norrod back on the tractor and checking fences again. TN AgrAbility is thankful for his help in building great partnerships between Vocational Rehabilitation

(VR), the STAR Center, and TN AgrAbility.

Submitted by TN AgrAbility

November 2021

Texas

Texas AgrAbility hosted an educational webinar titled "Promoting Independent Living in Rural Communities" on November 10. The webinar provided an overview of the centers for independent living (CIL), eligibility criteria for utilizing CIL services, services provided, and ways to get involved with a local center for independent living.

An in-person agriculture business workshop is being planned for January 28, 2022, in the Houston area. The workshop will be geared toward beginning farmers and ranchers and will include presentations on business planning, Texas AgrAbility, rural business ideas, funding sources, and more!

Submitted by Makenzie Thomas

November 2021

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 28 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including a small-scale urban farmer in Richmond who has had 13 knee surgeries and has trouble bending down. This farmer was able to purchase long-handled interchangeable tools through the Easterseals UCP Bellows Fund.



The advisory group met on Tuesday October 26 to discuss new clients, outreach materials, and plans for 2022. DARS rehab engineer Tom Rybak and DARS advisory group member John Allen presented a tractor step extension being developing for an

AgrAbility Virginia client. Engineering doctoral student Negin Nikafrooz and AgrAbility Virginia Program Co-Director Dr. Alex Leonessa presented back and hand support AT designs being developed and tested at Virginia Tech.



AgrAbility Virginia staff will be attending several in-person events in November, including:

- The Brain Injury Association of Virginia Making Headway Conference in Roanoke, VA, November 6
- The Eastern Regional Farmer Veteran Conference in Knoxville, TN, November 17-19
- The Small Farms Conference in Roanoke, VA, November 19-20
- The Virginia Farm Bureau Convention in Williamsburg, VA, November 29-December 2

AgrAbility Virginia staff recently updated three publications, all available on their website under resources.

- [A Resource Guide for Start-up Military Veteran Farmers](#) (ALCE-277NP)
- [Mental Health Topics for Farm Families and Caregivers: An AgrAbility Virginia Program Resource](#) (ALCE-275NP)
- [The Basics of On-Farm Safety: An Introductory Guide by the AgrAbility Virginia Program](#) (ALCE-276NP)

Submitted by Virginia AgrAbility Project

November 2021

AgrAbility for Africa



When faced with disabilities, the level of active participation in rehabilitation care and support plays a significant role in results achieved. With continued easing of movement restrictions, the AgrAbility for Africa staff have increased community outreach initiatives to boost farmer and farmworker knowledge and engagement in their own care. This enhances their control of their bodies' physiologies from one of threat to safety, recovery, and health

management. Efforts are geared towards improving understanding of hoe ergonomics to avert musculoskeletal disorders/injuries, promoting early screening to ensure better health, and productive farming.



It is fact that when stress overwhelms the nervous system, the body goes into threat physiology, a state of sustained fight or flight that makes one seriously ill. With the curtailed social connection, digital divide in rural Africa, and technology being unable to bridge the gap for a big percentage of the rural population, mental health has deteriorated for many farmers and their children in Africa. To help address the root causes (increasing access, reducing disparities, and ensuring substantial gainful activity), AgrAbility for Africa has amplified mental health interventions, works at giving farmers, farmworkers, and their children an ear and a voice in their own rehabilitation treatment, and keeps agricultural workers informed about available treatments, services, and preventative solutions.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

November 2021

Upcoming Events

Name Agriculture as The Next Mission for Military Veterans of All Abilities
Dates November 16, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. EST
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Webinar features Cindy Chastain, Veteran Outreach Coordinator, and
Info/Web Paul Jones, Program Manager, AgrAbility.
link <https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ADA-Audio/session/?id=110963>

Name ATLA-Tech Hour will be on accessible agriculture
Dates November 16, 2021, 11:00 a.m. AKT (3:00 p.m. EST)
City, State Virtual event online
Contact <https://tinyurl.com/ye9wnkq6>
Info/Web
link

Name National AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop
Dates November 16-18, 2021
City, State Manhattan, Kansas
Contact To register, go to [Kansas Regional Conference](#).
Info/Web
link

Name Washington Farm Bureau 2021 Annual Meeting
Dates November 16-18, 2021
City, State Yakima, Washington
Contact <https://wfbannualmeeting.com/>
Info/Web
link

Name Eastern Regional Farmer Veteran Coalition Conference: "Farm to Market: Opportunity Knocks"
Dates November 17-19, 2021
City, State Knoxville, Tennessee
Contact <https://conference.farmvetco.org/>
Info/Web
link

Name Strategies for Preventing Farm/Ranch Suicides and for Assisting Those Left Behind
Dates November 30, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link Register by Friday November 26 by clicking [HERE](#).

Name Indiana Farm Equipment and Technology Expo
Dates December 14-16, 2021
City, State Westfield, Indiana
Contact Info/Web link <https://indianafarmexpo.com/>

Name Online Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program
Dates January 2022
City, State Online
Contact Info/Web link Dr. Derrick Stowell 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/>