

AgrAbility e·Note

February 2022

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

2022 NTW: Things to do...

1. **AgrAbility's hotel room block at both hotels has closed.** If you did not get a room in time, please contact Tess McKeel at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or 585-447-9015. She has a few extra rooms reserved and can transfer them on a first come, first served basis.
2. **Register.** You can get to registration through the NTW website [HERE](#).
3. While you are on the NTW website don't forget to **check out the [great tours](#)** that are planned (additional fee).
4. **Register as an AgrAbility exhibitor.** This is an option on the registration site. You can contact Tess McKeel if you have already registered online but would like to have an AgrAbility display.
5. **Suggest exhibitors or sponsors.** You can find information for both by clicking on either option- [exhibitor](#) or [sponsor](#).
6. **Put together your state raffle basket.** The state raffle baskets have been a hit the last two years. Put together a basket with items from your state or any theme that you would like and let's see whose basket gets the most tickets.
7. **Solicit auction items.** We need auction items to help support the cost of our farmer guests. You can mail your items ahead of time, if needed, to [Amanda Harguth](#), 460 Henry Mall, Room B20, Madison, WI 53706. Please indicate that it is for the NTW and include the [attached item description form](#).
8. **Start thinking about the snack you would like to bring to share in the Hospitality Suite!**



If you have any questions, contact Tess or JoBeth anytime. Tess McKeel - tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org -585.447.9015 Or JoBeth Rath - jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.402.2059

Join us for an AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting on March 2 at 2:00 p.m. EST. Scheduled are updates from NIFA and the AgrAbility fact sheet working group along with a presentation on transition programming for active-duty service members interested in agriculture. Look for details coming soon.

AgrAbility/North Central FRSAN webinar: "Tensions of Farm Succession," Tuesday, February 22, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET. For many farms, transferring the farm to a next generation is the



ultimate legacy goal, especially when transferring within the family. But it's not all rainbows and roses. [More](#)

AgrAbility Monthly Zoom, Wednesday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. EST. Kimber Nicoletti-Martínez leads a discussion on farmworkers. Contact knicolet@purdue.edu for details.

Many thanks to AgrAbility in Georgia for staffing a booth in cooperation with NAP at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Atlanta. See more in their entry below.

Toolbox Spotlight

A [Personal Air Quality Monitor](#) is a handheld or wearable battery-powered unit that tracks, measures, records, and transmits surrounding atmospheric condition data to one's electronic device (e.g., smartphone, computer). It warns workers with respiratory impairments if they are entering a dangerous environment for their lungs. The user can then, in real time, read the results (even be audio-alerted) and take protective action, if warranted.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

January into February has had Alaskans facing exceptional weather events throughout the state, from freezing & thawing to extreme wind events being referred to as "winter hurricanes." [More](#)

While waiting for spring, the Alaska AgrAbility (AKAgrAbility) team has been active in doing some outreach and educational events and planning for the coming season. As mentioned previously, the AKAgrAbility program has partnered with the Kenai Peninsula Soil & Water Conservation District (KP-SWCD) Office to offer a seven-part series titled "[From the Ground Up](#),"... [More](#)



DeShana participated in two convenings around food systems and food security in Alaska. [More](#)



Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) hosted the Older Person Action Group, a monthly group meeting held by Senior Voice (a local newspaper) with attendees from organizations and companies that support and serve older Alaskans across Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. A brief overview of the AKAgrAbility program was presented at this meeting.

Planning with the Alaska Botanical Garden team is underway to develop an area for accessible gardening and assistive technology demonstrations for the general public and for educational training events in the future.

The next issue of the AKAgrAbility quarterly newsletter is to be distributed in February.

California

California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural

Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) quarterly networking meeting. Colorado AgrAbility Project's Dr. Bob Fetsch and Chad Reznicek presented on "Advances and Barriers in Increasing Behavioral Health Support for Colorado Farming and Ranching Families." [More](#)



California AgrAbility staff attended the AgrAbility Marketing and Media Community of Interest meeting. [More](#)

Staff attended the first monthly Puentes Network collaborative meeting of 2022. [More](#)

Colorado

Using small grant funds from the WRASAP stress assistance program, the Colorado AgrAbility Project was able to design a new web presence with improved content and function. Please check it out at agrability.colostate.edu and drop the staff a note with any suggestions for improvement or errors that are found. Staff look forward to hearing from readers as they continue to launch new content.

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility was honored to represent the National AgrAbility Project at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, from January 7th through 12th. Sonny Perdue, who served as the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture from 2017 to 2021, was a special visitor to the booth. [More](#)

Georgia AgrAbility was an exhibitor at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, Georgia, on January 6th through the 9th. The conference is the South's premier fruit and vegetable show. [More](#)



Indiana

The Fort Wayne Farm Show returned to an in-person event on January 18-20 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. [More](#)



Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, visited with the Morgan County (Martinsville, IN) 4-H Junior Leaders during their annual club lock-in on January 16. After several members heard about AgrAbility from a teacher, they were interested in learning more about the program and contacted Indiana AgrAbility to extend an invitation to visit their club meeting. [More](#)

Kansas

Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson joined members of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Kansas and SAVE Farm (Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education) for an FVC grant seminar at the Kubota distribution center in Edgerton, Kansas. [More](#)



Maine

One of Maine AgrAbility's advisory council members, Donald Burr, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine's safety and training coordinator, recently created this YouTube video for the Maine LogAbility program. [More](#)

[The 2022 Maine Agricultural Trades Show](#) was virtual again this year due to the pandemic. It was disappointing to not re-connect with Maine farmers, but the content was shared virtually via live and recorded events.

Starting in February, Maine FishAbility will be providing fishermen virtual access to stretching poses to help them stay productive and avoid injury. [More](#)

Missouri



Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion for MU Extension & partner programs. Additionally, it launched a new social media campaign featuring the Missouri AgrAbility team members and highlighting what they enjoy about their work with AgrAbility. [More](#)

This month, MU Extension also continued to use USDA NIFA funds to efficiently provide customers and their families, including veteran farmers and their families, with direct on-the-farm assistance in a timely manner. [More](#)

The Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) is currently working to offer its third behavioral education-based workshop to agricultural professionals in a series focusing on mental health and farmers with disabilities. [More](#)



Forty-three veterans with brain injury recently completed the Heroes to Hives (H2H) online course offered by Michigan State University and the Missouri State H2H Chapter's face-to-face and hands-on program. H2H is a unique program offered through Michigan State University and the Missouri AgrAbility Project. [More](#)

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility is planning a Rehabilitating Nebraska Farmers and Ranchers course for occupational and physical therapists and assistants to help them better understand the needs of farmers and ranchers going through physical or occupational therapy. [More](#)

A staff member is attending social media workshops that are being put on by [Grow Nebraska](#), an organization for Nebraska entrepreneurs. [More](#)

New Mexico

New Mexico AgrAbility (NMAP) staffed a booth at the Joint Stockmen's Convention to promote the project and interact with NM cattle growers and other producers.

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) staff presented at the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association (OLICA) annual conference in early January. This was the first opportunity to present to this group in several years, and they were an attentive audience. In addition to an overview of Ohio AgrAbility,

OLICA attendees were also introduced to OAP's "Fitness for Farm Life" resources... [More](#)



Pennsylvania



Staff from AgrAbility PA and Penn State Ag Safety and Health teamed up to host an interactive display at the 2022 Keystone Farm Show in York, PA, during the first week of January. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA staff members continued life on the education, networking, and outreach circuit by presenting to the Tri-County Employment Coalition, participating in the FRISAN NE Extension Cohort meeting (which focuses on farm stress and mental health in the Northeast), and attending the PA Farm Link board to share about the work AgrAbility does to support farmers. [More](#)

READ ALL ABOUT IT! AgrAbility PA continues to make headlines-this time in [Lancaster Farming](#) - sharing farmer success stories and how farmers can benefit from AgrAbility services and support.



South Dakota

The Tatanka Ki Owetu, Renewal AgrAbility Project on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is busy working directly on client sites this month, taking advantage of the low snow amounts. Staff are also working with Little Wound School on a unique AgrAbility farm-to-school program for youth ages 17-19 still enrolled in high school. [More](#)

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility presented for a new online learning opportunity: [Master Farm Family and Health Wellness Program](#) (MFFHW) is an educational outreach program coordinated by UT Extension Family & Consumer Sciences to provide farm families with the tools to cope and thrive with the unique challenges facing farm families. [More](#)

One unique way that TN AgrAbility assists beginning farmers with disabilities is by encouraging them to attend the TN New Farmer Academy with TNAP's partner, TN State University Extension. [More](#)



TNAP also encourages farmers nationwide to attend a financial class that is another new online educational program University of Tennessee Extension uniquely designed to help beginning farmers or individuals starting a new venture in agriculture. [More](#)



January was a travel month for TN AgrAbility. Their displays were seen at: East TN Grain Conference; Middle TN Grain Conference; West TN Grain Conference; and TN Cattleman's Association Convention. From attending these conferences, TNAP has several new referrals.

January ended with the first TN Grain Bin Safety/Rescue Awareness

Training for 2022. The event was coordinated by TN AgrAbility and UT TSU Extension (Chester, Decatur, Hardin & Henderson Counties) with instruction by Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS). [More](#)



Texas

Texas AgrAbility hosted its quarterly advisory committee meeting where resources were shared to enhance programs and services for Texas AgrAbility clients.

An advisory committee satisfaction survey was sent out with members providing feedback on the effectiveness of the committee, suggestions for new members, and testimonies of the impact serving has had on their work as ag producers and service providers.

Texas AgrAbility's occupational therapy intern Maggie Mencer will be conducting research on the effectiveness of the Texas AgrAbility online course for occupational therapists this semester. As part of her capstone project, she will conduct focus groups to evaluate the course and recommend enhancements for the future.

Utah

In January, AgrAbility of Utah staff attended and presented at three Crop School classes taught throughout the state. [More](#)

On January 18 and 26, AgrAbility of Utah staff met with staff members of the COVER to COVER program to discuss ways to better serve the veteran community in Utah. [More](#)

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 28 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including a returning client with cerebral palsy who is seeking additional assistive technology supports for his cattle operation.

AgrAbility Virginia will be sending a group to the National Training Workshop in Madison, WI.

AgrAbility Virginia Field Coordinator Jeremy Daubert continues to staff an exhibit table at the Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council winter meetings across the state.

Program Director Dr. Kim Niewolny presented at the Virginia Agriculture Education conference February 5th in Fishersville, Virginia. Jeremy Daubert will also attend and manage an information booth for the SRAP. The target audience is all Virginia secondary and vocational school ag educators.

Dr. Kim Niewolny and Jeremy Daubert presented at the Virginia Cooperative Extension virtual conference between January 31 and February 1 on AgrAbility Virginia programming. The target audience was all Extension agents across the state.

Jeremy Daubert also staffed a display the 2022 VANTAGE Virginia No-Till Alliance conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on February 9th.

Washington

The Washington State AgrAbility Project (WSAP) and Curt Johnson (WATAP) presented a 75-minute virtual workshop titled "Aching Hands and Stomped on Feet" as part of the

Country Living Expo.

The WSAP coordinator participated in a booth with PNW Ag Network and passed out AgrAbility materials at the Washington/Oregon Potato Conference in Kennewick, Washington, Jan 26th-27th.

The WSAP team developed and published a "Pathway to Services" document - a tool for navigating services in Washington state. The document is available on the [WSAP website](#) and will serve as a resource for clients searching for resources.

WSAP participated in a farm-to-table event in Spokane to network within Spokane, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties.

The WSAP coordinator hosted a booth with the help of Curt Johnson (WATAP) at the Spokane Ag Show February 1-3. WSAP presented a 75-minute workshop entitled "Aching Hands and Stomped on Feet" in person February 2nd.

WSAP wrapped up a three-month digital native ad campaign with Cherry Creek Media and reaped the benefits of increased traffic to its website and social media reaches.

WSAP delivered an introduction to AgrAbility to a Farm Bureau RETRO virtual meeting February 14.

Wisconsin

The middle of January, AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff attended the Wisconsin Agri Business Classic and also attended the Wisconsin Corn and Soy Expo in early February. Staff also plan to have a booth at the MOSES Organic Conference toward the end of February. While out at these events, staff love chatting with current and potential clients and sharing what their program can help them with on their farms.

Staff are looking forward to warmer weather and being the state to host the 2022 National Training Workshop. We are excited to see you in Madison!

International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa



Wednesday, January 26, AgrAbility for Africa staff attended a webinar by Free Wheelchair Mission on mobility for the disabled in Uganda. [More](#)

As the country slowly opens up past the worst phases of Covid-19, the AgrAbility staff are also returning to the fields to assess farmer needs and challenges and to provide the appropriate support. It is during such visits that they met Nabawanuka who has mobility challenges. [More](#)

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Michigan AgrAbility and Michigan Rehabilitation Services talk about their partnership to help Michigan's disabled farmers.](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [How to overcome caregiver burnout](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)

- [AgrAbility Gives Farmers With Disabilities Hope for the Future](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)
- [WSU: Agrability Works To Keep Farmers Farming](#) (Washington State AgrAbility Project)
- [Heroes to Hives opens enrollment for 2022](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility with Paul Jones and Chuck Baldwin \(Part 2\)](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [Inspired to keep going](#) (Nebraska AgrAbility)
- [USDA Makes Big Investment To Grow Its AgrAbility Program](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project, Ohio AgrAbility, AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, Tennessee AgrAbility Project)

OtherNews

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

- [Let's work together to stay free from harm while working on the farm](#)
- [FACT SHEET: USDA Activities to Promote Equity](#)
- [USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Highlights 2021 Accomplishments to Advance Equity and Opportunity for Tribal Nations and Communities](#)
- [NIFA Update - Special Edition: FY 2021 Accomplishments in USDA Priority Areas](#)
- [Kencove geared wire twister](#)
- [USDA, DOJ Launch Online Tool Allowing Farmers, Ranchers to Report Anticompetitive Practices](#)
- [USDA Sets New Deadline to Apply for Farm and Food Workers Relief Grants](#)
- [NMPF: Dairy grows through family and faith, CDI's Vander Woude says](#)
- [Walmart invests in indoor vertical farming startup](#)
- [Farmer uses art to help fund new wells for fellow 81-year-old Valley farmer](#)

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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February 2022

Alaska

January into February has had Alaskans facing exceptional weather events throughout the state, from freezing & thawing to extreme wind events being referred to as "winter hurricanes." In some parts of the state, thousands were without power for several days, and roof collapses happened due to excessive snow loads. Some farmers are concerned about their crop insulation and what the spring will bring for the next production season. While 2022 has been a rough start up North, everyone is looking forward to spring and more daylight as the days are beginning to get noticeably longer.

While waiting for spring, the Alaska AgrAbility (AKAgrAbility) team has been active in doing some outreach and educational events and planning for the coming season. As mentioned previously, the AKAgrAbility program has partnered with the Kenai Peninsula Soil & Water Conservation District (KP-SWCD) Office to offer a seven-part series titled "[From the Ground Up](#)," which is currently underway. Extension staff and faculty as well as other partner organization experts from NRCS, FSA, and the Division of Forestry, have come together to bring practical information for those considering growing a business this coming season. This virtual series has been quite popular, showing a demand for information of this kind. Three hundred people registered for the Zoom series, which was the maximum allowed, causing a waitlist to be formed. Those who cannot attend the live session are being sent the recording of the live session the day following.

DeShana participated in two convenings around food systems and food security in Alaska. The first was initiated by a volunteer organization in Anchorage that formed out of the pandemic called "Anchor Gardens," where education and outreach is at the heart of getting resources to people around the city to grow their own food. The second was sponsored by the Alaska Food Policy Council through a grant from USDA that was engaging leaders in food systems work to assist with mapping assets and priorities for the Anchorage area's local food system. Both of these sessions were very engaging and offered a great opportunity for AKAgrAbility to be represented at the table.

Submitted by DeShana York

February 2022

California

California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) quarterly networking meeting. Colorado AgrAbility Project's Dr. Bob Fetsch and Chad Reznicek presented on "Advances and Barriers in Increasing Behavioral Health Support for Colorado Farming and Ranching Families." The presentation highlighted Colorado's strengths and needs related to behavioral health support for rural communities with a focus on accepted criteria of accessibility, affordability, and acceptability as a method of evaluation. The speakers discussed initial findings and current efforts to improve the availability of quality behavioral health services tailored to the needs of agricultural communities.



California AgrAbility staff attended the AgrAbility Marketing and Media Community of Interest meeting. Attendees gave feedback on the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair that took place this past October and shared ideas and thoughts for the next one. Before wrapping up, attendees discussed the proposed marketing and media toolkit.

Staff attended the first monthly Puentes Network collaborative meeting of 2022. Attending collaborators included representatives from Winters Healthcare, CREO, Dignity Health, Empower Yolo, and Yolo Cares. Attendees shared updates on their agency and organization programs and plans for the new year. The group discussed new roles and marketing to grow the network. The next Puentes Network collaborative meeting will be held in February.

Submitted by California AgrAbility Project

February 2022

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility was honored to represent the National AgrAbility Project at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, from January 7th through 12th. Sonny Perdue, who served as the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture from 2017 to 2021, was a special visitor to the booth. Georgia AgrAbility spoke to numerous attendees who had benefited themselves, or had a family

member benefit, from AgrAbility in various states. It was great to hear of the impact that AgrAbility is having across the United States. Staff spoke with many people interested in AgrAbility services, hopefully leading to referrals in multiple states.



Georgia AgrAbility was an exhibitor at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, Georgia, on January 6th through the 9th. The conference is the South's premier fruit and vegetable show. Staff exhibit at this conference every year, and they had a great turnout of farmers this year. Georgia AgrAbility is thankful to its board member from the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association for donating the booth space. Staff also participated in a panel on the topic "Future of Automation and Technology in Agriculture."

Submitted by Whitney Paige Ostrander

February 2022

Indiana

The Fort Wayne Farm Show returned to an in-person event on January 18-20 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Indiana AgrAbility staff, Michigan AgrAbility staff, and volunteers staffed a display at the show, which included AgrAbility publications on arthritis, case studies, and emergency preparedness, plus Life Essentials publications and a John Deere tractor with a lift, and *Gearing Up for Safety* information. Staff also toured the show to make contact with vendors who have worked with Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation clients and to look for new products for the Toolbox Assistive Technology Database.

Submitted by Steve Swain



Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, visited with the Morgan County (Martinsville, IN) 4-H Junior Leaders during their annual club lock-in January 16. After several members heard about AgrAbility from a teacher, they were interested in learning more about the program and contacted Indiana AgrAbility to



extend an invitation to visit their club meeting. During the lock-in, the group learned more about the AgrAbility program, disability awareness, and working with individuals with disabilities. In addition, the 4-H'ers participated in hands-on activities that demonstrated



challenges of a hand impairment such as arthritis, as well as the benefits of simple assistive technologies (including a long-handled toilet plunger!).

The group was challenged to participate in Indiana AgrAbility's Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest by completing a project that will assist people with disabilities in Morgan County. Indiana AgrAbility staff will provide advice and recommendations as needed when the club decides on a project.

A highlight of the evening was a visit by Remmy, an eight-month-old black lab being trained by a member's family to be a leader dog for the blind. After spending about one year with the family, Remmy will undergo further training and then be matched with a vision-impaired individual.



Submitted by Ed Sheldon

February 2022

Kansas

Project Coordinator Tawnie Larson joined members of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Kansas and SAVE Farm (Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education) for an FVC grant seminar at the Kubota distribution center in Edgerton, Kansas. Veterans in attendance were able to get a head-start on writing their grant applications by sharing ideas and gaining support from other organizations at the workshop.



The visit to Kubota included tours of the parts warehouse, whole goods, and assembly areas.

FVC's Fellowship Fund offers opportunities for small grants that provide direct assistance to veterans who are in their beginning years of farming or ranching and provides an avenue for applicants to apply for the Geared to Give program Kubota supports by awarding tractors and utility vehicles on a limited basis. Visit [Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund - FARMER VETERAN COALITION](#) for more information.

SAVE Farm, located near Manhattan, Kansas, offers a six-month program of agricultural classes including animal science, cover crops, range management, horticulture, business planning and much more. More information is available on their website at [The SAVE Farm](#).

Providing KAP customers with these resources is just one way the project assists veterans regarding education, funding, and community.

Submitted by Tawnie Larson

February 2022

Maine

One of Maine AgrAbility's advisory council members, Donald Burr, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine's safety and training coordinator, recently created this YouTube video for the Maine LogAbility program. Transferring fuel can be strenuous and messy. These AT suggestions may help address these barriers. [Fuel Transfer Pumps as Assistive Technology](#)

Starting in February, Maine FishAbility will be providing fishermen virtual access to stretching poses to help them stay productive and avoid injury. Suggestions for strength and conditioning specifically for fishermen will be shared to encourage better health and minimize injury and pain. These exercises and stretches are intended to be done using gear that is readily available on the boat or dooryard (what Mainers call the area immediately adjacent to the front door of a house) and performed easily while in the wheelhouse or on the deck. This effort is a partnership of the Maine Coast Fisherman's Association and UMaine Cooperative Extension's Maine AgrAbility program, working to address the physical needs of fishermen and the business of fishing. See the first post on: [instagram.com/p/CYosFI3rvvs/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CYosFI3rvvs/)

Submitted by Lani Carlson

February 2022

Missouri



Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion for MU Extension & partner programs. Additionally, it launched a new social media campaign featuring the Missouri AgrAbility team members and highlighting what they enjoy about their work with AgrAbility. Staff kicked off their campaign

with PI and Program Director Karen Funkenbusch. Tune in each Wednesday in February, March, and April to meet one of our Missouri AgrAbility team members. If you have not already, make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility, @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

This month, MU Extension also continued to use USDA NIFA funds to efficiently provide customers and their families, including veteran farmers and their families, with direct on-the-farm assistance in a timely manner. Direct assistance included working with statewide stakeholders and cooperators who focused their efforts on the early identification of farm and rural families who are in need of services related to the disability of an individual. MU Extension agriculture and natural resources and livestock specialists assisted AgrAbility customers by providing individualized consultative services that increases the likelihood that AgrAbility customers and their farm operations experience success. To address the specialized need of Missouri customers and their families, Brenda Schreck, Joni Harper, Elizabeth Picking, and Karen Funkenbusch assisted farmers and ranchers by helping them with product selection advice, accessibility and ergonomics recommendations, life activity and farm operations planning guidance, and advocacy to obtain services and financial aid. Direct assistance also occurred by meeting with farmers directly on their farm or remotely via electronic means such as by webcam, Teams, and Zoom.

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

The Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) is currently working to offer its third behavioral education-based workshop to agricultural professionals in a series focusing on mental health and farmers with disabilities. The first training workshop took place in-person at the Lincoln University Carver Research Farm in Jefferson City, Missouri, on October 15 with the focus on a curriculum called "Weathering the Storm". The second training class took place December 9 and focused on "QPR Gatekeeper" training. Lastly, a more in-depth training will take place February 17 to enable staff from the Lincoln University Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (LUCE ISFOP) and partner staff members to complete "Mental Health First Aid". The purpose of these training workshops is to connect LUCE ISFOP staff and the Missouri partners with behavioral health educational tools and mental health resources in their toolbox to better serve AgrAbility customers and their families throughout the state of Missouri.



Submitted by Shon Bishop

Forty-three veterans with brain injury recently completed the Heroes to Hives (H2H) online course offered by Michigan State University and the Missouri State H2H Chapter's face-to-face



and hands-on program. H2H is a unique program offered through Michigan State University and the Missouri AgrAbility Project. The H2H program seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through free professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. Missouri veteran students understand the importance of pollinators in U.S. agriculture and stand to protect managed bees through small-scale, sustainable beekeeping operations. The H2H online course has nine modules which include pre-recorded lecture videos, articles, and quizzes. The online course also is self-paced, allowing students with disabilities to review course materials at their own pace and on their own schedules. There were no live or synchronous sessions. The Brain Injury Association of Missouri, in partnership with Missouri AgrAbility, will offer all veteran beekeepers with disabilities information, support, and direct on-the-farm technical assistance related to the effects of their disabilities plus ways in which to successfully maintain their beekeeping operations. Information about the H2H program can be found [here](#), and Missouri's Heroes to Hives as the first [State Chapter here](#).

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham and Karen Funkenbusch

February 2022

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility is planning a Rehabilitating Nebraska Farmers and Ranchers course for occupational and physical therapists and assistants to help them better understand the needs of farmers and ranchers going through physical or occupational therapy. The course is April 27 and will be offered in-person and via Zoom for those that cannot attend in-person. CEU's are available for the day-long course which includes a working farm visit at the farm of a Nebraska AgrAbility client.

A staff member is attending social media workshops that are being put on by [Grow Nebraska](#), an organization for Nebraska entrepreneurs. They are helping to make a game plan for better use of staff time and resources, as well as assisting with deciding which platforms best benefit AgrAbility's outreach.

Submitted by Susan Harris

February 2022

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) staff presented at the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association (OLICA) annual conference in early January. This was the first opportunity to present to this group in several years, and they were an attentive audience. In addition to an overview of Ohio AgrAbility, OLICA attendees were also introduced to OAP's "Fitness for Farm Life" resources and encouraged to try ten different stretches during the presentation. The stretches were interspersed throughout the presentation: after a discussion of tractor seats and anti-vibration gloves, the presenter led the group in two shoulder stretches. Examples of cameras and monitors were paired with neck stretches. Extended steps, handrails, and lifts (platform and pilot) led to a finale of leg and hip stretches. The attendees were happy to do the stretches, as it was the end of a long day of sitting and listening to presentations, and the stretches allowed OAP staff to keep the attendees engaged and show them how easy it is to fit stretches into their workday. OAP staff are grateful to former NAP and Indiana AgrAbility OT doctoral intern Luke Cain for introducing OLICA to OAP after he presented on AgrAbility at the national Land Improvement Contractor's conference.



Submitted by Laura Akgerman

February 2022

Pennsylvania



Staff from AgrAbility PA and Penn State Ag Safety and Health teamed up to host an interactive display at the 2022 Keystone Farm Show in York, PA, during the first week of January. This three-day event is the largest commercial farm equipment and service provider show in the state! Nearly 100 attendees visited and talked with AgrAbility PA. Information was provided on

financial resources available from both the state's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF).

AgrAbility PA staff members continued life on the education, networking, and outreach circuit by presenting to the Tri-County Employment Coalition, participating in the FRSAN NE Extension Cohort meeting (which focuses on farm stress and mental health in the Northeast), and attending the PA Farm Link board to share about the work AgrAbility does to support farmers. Pennsylvania Farm Link is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and other agricultural organizations and businesses across the commonwealth to support PA farmers.

Submitted by Kendra Martin

February 2022

South Dakota - Tatanka Ki Owetu

The Tatanka Ki Owetu, Renewal AgrAbility Project on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is busy working directly on client sites this month, taking advantage of the low snow amounts. Staff are also working with Little Wound School on a unique AgrAbility farm-to-school program for youth ages 17-19 still enrolled in high school. The youth in Little Wound School's Extension program all qualify for AgrAbility and are learning about AgrAbility, farm-to-school, agricultural production, the local foods market on Pine Ridge, and how assistive technology can help them meet their small tribal farm goals. This month, staff are also co-hosting a booth with South Dakota State University and SDSU Extension colleagues at the Black Hills Stock Show.

Submitted by Tatanka Ki Owetu, Renewal AgrAbility Project

February 2022

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility presented for a new online learning opportunity: [Master Farm Family and Health Wellness Program \(MFFHW\)](#) is an educational outreach program coordinated by UT Extension Family & Consumer Sciences to provide farm families with the tools to cope and thrive with the unique challenges facing farm families. The first session was "Safety Around the Farm." TN AgrAbility's presentation focused on assistive technology solutions to different challenges and helping prevent secondary injuries. Brian Robinson with the TN Association of Rescue

Squads presented on safety around farm equipment, moving farm equipment, farmer first aid (shock, heat stroke, hypothermia, trauma), and livestock handling safety. This eight-week program will help producers and farm families gain knowledge while also giving them a new area of participation as they continue to find ways to include the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) cost-share program on their farms.

One unique way that TN AgrAbility assists beginning farmers with disabilities is by encouraging them to attend the TN New Farmer Academy with TNAP's partner, TN State University Extension. TN AgrAbility offers scholarships for beginning farmers or veterans with disabilities to attend. Finis Stribling, who started the academy, is also the Tennessee AgrAbility Project director for TSU Extension. He emphasizes the



importance of utilizing AgrAbility, if needed, and all the assistive technology services available so farmers can continue doing what they love. Plus, the Tennessee New Farmer Academy is an opportunity to introduce beginning farmers to a little bit of all types of Tennessee farming with hands-on experiences. Three Tennessee New Farmer Academies across the state are now accepting new students for the March 2022 classes: tstate.edu/extension/NFA.aspx.

TNAP also encourages farmers nationwide to attend a financial class that is another new online educational program University of Tennessee Extension uniquely designed to help beginning farmers or individuals starting a new venture in agriculture. "UT Farming Fundamentals" provides participants with resources and information on the essential principles needed to build a successful operation. Find out more about this program that farmers can do at their own pace: <https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/farming-fundamentals/>.



January ended with the first TN Grain Bin Safety/Rescue Awareness Training for 2022. The event was coordinated by TN AgrAbility and UT TSU Extension (Chester, Decatur, Hardin & Henderson Counties) with instruction by Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS). The participants included ag producers and rescue personnel. Each one learned the roles they were responsible for in case of a grain bin entrapment.

Sponsors for the event: Goddard Family Endowment, Roger's Farm Supply, Chester County Grain, AG Services, and Faulkner Family Farm, LLC. A Chester County ag producer said: "Usually when I do have to pay a registration fee to attend a training, it is worthless. This training was great. I learned a lot, and the instructors were very professional. I have never had this type of training on grain bins and

what do to do in case of an entrapment. I am spreading the word." And according to the UT Extension Chester County ANR agent, the ag producer is still talking about the training.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

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February 2022

Utah

In January, AgrAbility of Utah staff attended and presented at three Crop School classes taught throughout the state. Crop School classes are sponsored and taught by Utah State University Extension, and topics include weed, pest, water, fertilizer, and other agronomic management techniques. The workshops were held in Delta, Beaver, and Nephi, Utah, respectively.

On January 18 and 26, AgrAbility of Utah staff met with staff members of the COVER to COVER program to discuss ways to better serve the veteran community in Utah. COVER to COVER stands for "Connecting Older Veterans Especially Rural to Community or Veteran Eligible Resources" and was established to help veterans learn more about VA benefits and to better connect to their services.

Submitted by Randall Bagley

January 2022

AgrAbility for Africa

Wednesday, January 26, AgrAbility for Africa staff attended a webinar by Free Wheelchair Mission on mobility for the disabled in Uganda. Among the issues discussed were the challenges of access and the interventions in place to try and address the persistent problem of health, health care information, and assistive technology access for people across Africa. The wheelchair need alone in Uganda, to date, stands at over one million wheelchairs. The purpose of joining the webinar was to help validate traditional knowledge, help in identifying emerging solutions, understand real-time challenges, and monitor and track wheelchair numbers, types, and use. End-of-life management toward putting in place appropriate resources and systems was also in view, as this is fundamental when promoting the issues of access and intervention. It was also an opportunity to further learn best practices and expand networks to support AgrAbility for Africa's mission.



As the country slowly opens up past the worst phases of Covid-19, the AgrAbility staff are also returning to the fields to assess farmer needs and challenges and to provide the appropriate support. It is during such visits that they met Nabawanuka who has mobility challenges. She is a long-term client of AgrAbility for Africa. Currently, staff are working with Ned Stoller, an assistive technology professional with the Michigan AgrAbility program and the National AgrAbility Project, to design solutions tailored to her

needs and challenges, in order to enhance her independence and quality of life.



Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

February 2022

Upcoming Events

Name From the Ground Up!

Dates Tuesday evenings February 15 - March 1, 2022, 10:00-11:30 p.m. EST

City, State Online classes

Contact Info/Web link <https://alaska.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vfu2gqjMiH9d6q9y3V1SA3OWmQS4nSw7P>
Full registration on the website, however, folks can contact DeShana York at ddyork@alaska.edu or at 907-786-6330 to receive a recorded session following the live delivery.

Name (Tennessee) Master Farm Family Health and Wellness Program

Dates February 17, 24; March 3, 2022

City, State Online

Contact Info/Web link tiny.utk.edu/mffhwregistration

Name 2022 OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association) Conference

Dates February 17-19, 2022 In-Person

City, State Dayton, Ohio

Contact Info/Web link <https://conference.oeffa.org/>

Name Second Lakota Food Summit

Dates February 15-17, 2022

City, State Rapid City, South Dakota

Contact Info/Web link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-lakota-food-summit-tickets-227814026887>

Name New York Farm Show

Dates February 24-26, 2022

City, State Syracuse, New York

Contact Info/Web link <https://www.newyorkfarmshow.com/en/home.html>

Name 2022 Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference

Dates February 25-28, 2022

City, State Louisville, Kentucky
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.fb.org/events/2022-young-farmers-ranchers-conference/>

Name 2022 High Plains Dairy Conference
Dates March 1-2, 2022
City, State Amarillo, Texas
Contact Info/Web link <http://highplainsdairy.org/>

Name Commodity Classic
Dates March 10-12, 2022
City, State New Orleans, Louisiana
Contact Info/Web link <https://commodityclassic.com/>

Name AgrAbility National Training Workshop
Dates March 14-17, 2022
City, State Madison, Wisconsin
Contact Info/Web link <http://www.agrability.org/agrability-national-training-workshop/>

Name NCFH Midwest Stream Forum
Dates March 28-30, 2022
City, State Austin, Texas
Contact Info/Web link <http://www.ncfh.org/midwest-stream-forum.html>

Name AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association) INSPIRE 2022 Annual Conference & Expo
Dates March 31 - April 3, 2022
City, State San Antonio, Texas, and Virtual
Contact Info/Web link <https://inspire.aota.org/>

Name AgrileadHER™ Women's Agriculture Conference
Dates August 17-18, 2022
City, State Virtual Conference
Contact Info/Web link www.agrileadHER.com

