

# AgrAbility e·Note

**March 2022**

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

## National AgrAbility Project News

**2022 NTW:** Just a few days away!!! We are all so excited to be able to see each other in person again.



### Things to remember:

1. **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.
2. **Bring auction items.** Don't forget to bring those auction items. You can fill out a description sheet ahead of time to bring with your item.
3. **Bring a snack to share in the Hospitality Suite.** We love to have items specific to your state to snack on in the hospitality suite.
4. **GET READY TO HAVE SOME FUN** as you increase your professional development.

If you have any questions, contact us anytime.

- Tess McKeel - [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org) -585.447.9015
- or JoBeth Rath - [jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org) - 585.402.2059



Planning for the Regional Event in Columbus, OH, is coming along. More information will be coming out after the NTW. Stay tuned!

The AgrAbility/North Central FRSSAN webinar "Tensions of Farm Succession" has been archived at [www.agrability.org/online-training/archived/webinar-series](http://www.agrability.org/online-training/archived/webinar-series).

The March 2 all-staff meeting recording is available at [www.agrability.org/extranet/staff-resources](http://www.agrability.org/extranet/staff-resources).

The National AgrAbility Project, Purdue's Gearing Up for Safety youth ag safety program, Good Days Work (OSHA training for ag), and Life Essentials participated together as exhibitors at the 2022 National Farm Machinery Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, on February 16-19. [More](#)



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## Toolbox Spotlight



Workers with leg, arm, and back impairments can feed calves in hutches or pastured livestock with a [Feed and Water Transport Wagon](#). Feed and water can be dispensed directly to troughs without lifting and carrying buckets by hand. The towable wagon consists of a feed hopper and a water tank (both polyester) mounted on a rubber-wheeled steel frame with hitching tongue. Custom-built according to users' needs, hopper sizes range from .8 to 2.8 tons and tank sizes from 250 to 275 gallons. Unloading the feed is accomplished via an electric or hydraulic motor connected to the towing vehicle, while the water is dispensed via a gas-powered pump or gravity-flow through a hose.

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## State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

### Alaska

Alaska AgrAbility non-profit partner ATLA is providing a free Assistive Technology Virtual Expo from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. AKT (1 p.m. - 4 p.m. ET) on Wednesday, April 20th and Thursday, April 21st. [More](#)

The statewide seven-part series titled "From the Ground Up," which was a partnership between AKAgrAbility, Kenai Peninsula Soil & Water Conservation District, and Cooperative Extension, concluded on March 1st. [More](#)

Art Nash taught a four-part series noncredit course titled "Adaptive and Enabled Garden Growing" throughout February for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) based in Fairbanks, Alaska. [More](#)

AKAgrAbility will be participating in a new FishAbility working group. So far, participating SRAPs consist of Maine, Washington, and Michigan. [More](#)

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### California



California AgrAbility staff attended the 20th annual month-long Healthy Aging Education Series, part of the UC Davis Healthy Aging Initiative. [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff met with Clinica Tepati representatives, a non-profit student-run clinic in Sacramento, California, to discuss the offering of arthritis exercise classes to clinic patients. [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff participated in the 2022 Capay Valley Almond Festival. Staff introduced the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) and presented on AgrAbility services. [More](#)



## Georgia



On February 22nd, Georgia AgrAbility staff participated in a panel on "Future Innovations in Agriculture and Sustainability." The panel was part of the Future of Georgia Summit hosted by the Georgia Chamber. [More](#)

On February 18, AgrAbility staff attended the Blue Ridge Mountain Conservation District monthly meeting and told the attendees about AgrAbility services in Georgia.

On February 28th, AgrAbility staff got to try out a new drone purchased by one of its state partners. The drone will be used for assistive technology demonstrations on clients' farms. It will be beneficial for cattle farmers who experience mobility issues when checking cattle and fence lines.



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## Indiana



Indiana AgrAbility consultant Steve Etheridge and Chuck Baldwin, project manager, staffed a booth February 4-5 at the Northern Indiana Grazing Conference in Shipshewana. In spite of the harsh winter weather, a new attendance record was set for the event with 2,267 visitors, who were primarily Amish or Plain farmers, along with exhibitors and program speakers. [More](#)

Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin have been presenting AgrAbility to groups of urban BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) farmers thanks to one of AgrAbility's partners. John Jamerson, director of the LIFE Project (USDA 2501 grant) that has the National AgrAbility Project as a partner, has been working with NRCS and other USDA agencies to produce a series of one-day conferences in Indiana for these urban farmers. [More](#)



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## Kansas



Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) enjoyed interacting with attendees at another Women Managing The Farm Conference in Manhattan, Kansas. Staff provided an interactive exhibit with one-hand gate latches, AT devices and tools, and a riding saddle featuring a back support. [More](#)

Tawnie Larson, KAP project coordinator, participated in a feature segment with Agriculture Today, the Kansas State University Radio Network, to discuss the recent KAP fact sheet titled "[Managing Stress: Tips and Resources](#)". [More](#)

Kansas AgrAbility was invited to present in the state-wide "Risk Management Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture" series sponsored by K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) and the Department of Agricultural Economics. [More](#)

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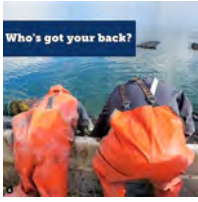
## Maine

Maine AgrAbility currently has a master's OT student doing her 12-week, level 2 fieldwork experience with them. Corey

Young, University of New England (UNE), grew up on a dairy farm in southern Maine. [More](#)



2022's Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners and Farmers has finished the first two months of programming covering topics like safe food handling, crop planning, and small fruit and vegetable production. [More](#)



Maine's first month of [Who's Got Your Back blog posts](#) focused on fishing-related work tasks, counter stretches, and resources to encourage better health to minimize injury and pain. [More](#)

Staff have been busy sharing Maine AgrAbility resources to a variety of audiences: talking to OT students about AT ideas at UNE, beginning farmers as part of UMaine Cooperative Extension's "So You Think You Want to Farm in Maine? ," and veterans participating in B2B sessions. [More](#)

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## Michigan

The famous Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Frankenmuth, Michigan, selected Michigan AgrAbility as its annual charity for 2021. Throughout the year, Bavarian Inn held fundraising events and gathered donations. Employees contributed through designated giving. [More](#)



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## Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on continuing its MO AgrAbility team campaign, Grain Bin Safety Week, American Heart Month, and promotion of MU Extension and partner programs. [More](#)

MU Extension and its Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) collaborative partner and brain injury stakeholders developed the Brain Injury Awareness Month Promotional Toolkit and shared it with cooperative organizations and stakeholders. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility staff continue to provide fee-for-service direct onsite farmstead assessments for Missouri's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility offered its third education-based program to agricultural professionals and collaborative partners with a focus on mental health and farmers with disabilities. [More](#)

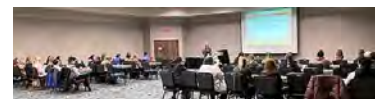
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## Nebraska



Nebraska Farm Bureau recently hosted its annual Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Conference in Kearney. The YF&R program is composed of men and women ages 18-35 who are Farm Bureau members and looking to develop their leadership skills while also meeting and networking with their peers. [More](#)

Staff provided a booth for outreach and presented at the Women in Ag conference in Kearney. The "Communicating with Farmers Under Stress" workshop was presented to approximately 50 women in various ag professions.



## New Mexico

Annie's Project, a six-week course designed for women in agriculture, was hosted in northeast New Mexico. Sonja Koukel, New Mexico AgrAbility (NMAP) project director, provided an overview of the national and state AgrAbility projects and shared resources with the 24 attendees.

Mandy's Farm, a NM AgrAbility team member, has begun design and implementation of universal signage, an automated greenhouse watering system, and an adaptive compost turner that will be used to model best-practices to apprentice farmers.

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## North Carolina



NC AgrAbility Partnership was an exhibitor at the 2022 Southern Farm Show in Raleigh, NC, from February 2-4. The participation of the Farmer Veteran Coalition was a success in helping attract more veterans to NC AgrAbility. [More](#)

NC AgrAbility participated at the farmworker welcoming event and vaccination campaign at the NC Growers Association meeting on Saturday February 26. Farmworkers had the opportunity to receive resources to help them stay healthy and safe while working on the farms.

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## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility presented information on OAP services, vocational rehabilitation, and accommodating farmers with disabilities to a class of occupational therapists at Wilmington College. [More](#)



Ohio AgrAbility, Kansas AgrAbility, and Alaska AgrAbility recently wrote a self-determined 4-H project publication: *Disability Advocacy and Awareness*, which has been published on the Ohio State University Extension 4-H website: <https://ohio4h.org/selfdetermined>. [More](#)

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## Pennsylvania

February brought several opportunities to further outreach initiatives as well as educational presentations.

### Outreach Initiatives:

- Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention:
- Lebanon County Livestock and Crop Day:
- PA Farm Bureau Young Ag Professionals Conference: [More](#)

### Educational Presentations:

- Staffers Abbie Spackman, Linda Fetzer, and Kendra Martin presented....at the statewide sustainable agriculture conference, Pasa.
- PI Dr. Suzanna Windon presented at the Southern AAAE Conference
- Staffers Abbie Spackman and Linda Fetzer presented in the BRS 426 (Biorenewable Systems) undergraduate class at Penn State University.
- Staffer Abbie Spackman taught high school ag students from 7th-12th grade about AgrAbility and assistive technology [More](#)



## Tennessee



TN AgrAbility exhibited and assisted the Extension team during a presentation at one of the sessions for the Pick TN Conference 2022 "Lunch and Learn: How Extension Agents and Specialists Can Help."

The 2022 conference was the two-year anniversary celebration of the Tennessee Chapter of Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC). [More](#)

TN AgrAbility's disability non-profit partner, the STAR Center, presented at the fourth session for the new online learning opportunity: Master Farm Family and Health Wellness Program (MFFHW). [More](#)

TN AgrAbility is working to reach new Extension staff through quarterly "Assistive Technology Tuesday" Zoom webinars. [More](#)



TN AgrAbility presented at one of the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days "Booster Session: Welcoming Participants & Volunteers with Special Needs". [More](#)



TN AgrAbility set up their display at the Middle & West TN Grain Conferences in February. These conferences were for agriculture producers to receive information on corn and soybeans.

Humboldt Lions Club asked for TN AgrAbility to attend its February meeting to present an AgrAbility and grain bin program. [More](#)

Sixty rescue personnel and ag producers from Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Grundy, Rutherford, and Warren counties attended the TN Grain Bin Safety/Rescue Awareness training. [More](#)



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## Texas

Texas AgrAbility staff will be presenting two sessions at the AgrAbility NTW: "Working with Capstone Students to Augment AgrAbility Services" and "How Do We Educate Military Veterans as Successful Beginning Farmers."

Texas AgrAbility team members Erin Kimbrough and Makenzie Thomas completed a farm visit for a hay and cattle farmer in central Texas. The assessment was used as a training opportunity for the Texas AgrAbility occupational therapy intern, Maggie Mencer.



Texas AgrAbility staff Makenzie Thomas, Faye McGuire, and intern Maggie Mencer presented Texas AgrAbility to the University of St. Augustine occupational therapy class. Forty students were educated on available AgrAbility services and assistive technology options for farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

Staff met with Joe Ricker, intern and DoD (Department of Defense) Skillbridge program participant with NAP, to discuss opportunities for other AgrAbility projects to incorporate active-duty military interns in their project.

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## Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff attended and presented at the Northern Utah Fruit Growers Association winter meeting on Feb. 3. The meeting was sponsored by Utah State University Extension and was held in Brigham City, Utah.

On Feb. 8, staff attended and presented at a Crop School Class in Logan, Utah. Crop School Classes are sponsored and taught by Utah State University Extension, and topics include weed, pest, water, fertilizer, and other agronomic management techniques.

AgrAbility staff attended and set up a booth at the Soil Health in the West Conference in St. George, UT, on Feb 16-17. The staff was able to visit with many of the 300-plus farmers who attended. The conference had many sponsors including the United States Department of Agriculture and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

AgrAbility staff obtained valuable information at the suicide prevention seminar that was sponsored by the Cache County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The topic was "Suicide Safe Messaging" and was well-attended by community organizations in northern Utah.

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## Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 31 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need, including a farmer from Warren County recovering from COVID.

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

Staff are working to partner with the Virginia Association of Nurse Practitioners to expand outreach to medical professionals across the state.

AgrAbility Virginia is developing a plan to partner with large farm animal veterinarians across the state for expanded outreach and referrals.

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## Washington

The Washington AgrAbility Project launched another three-month social media campaign with Cherry Creek Media specifically targeting rural communities. Web traffic and social media likes, reaches, and views doubled each month of the last campaign.

WSAP participated in a statewide Farm Bureau RETRO safety workshop February 23rd explaining the program and services of AgrAbility.

Northwest Access Fund, in cooperation with WSAP, is launching a series of four webinars titled "[So you've had a farm injury? What next.](#)": [More](#)

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## Wisconsin

Welcome to Madison! To all of you attending the 2022 National Training Workshop, we are happy to have you here in our great state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin AgrAbility staff have been working with the planning committee to help make this year's NTW a great success. We hope you enjoy your time in Madison.

Throughout late February and early March, staff attended the MOSES Organic Farming Conference, and met with the Farmer Veteran Coalition of WI and the VA Farms and Gardens program through the Madison VA Hospital.

The staff has started to plan their annual AgrAbility Summit that will happen in early April.

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## AgrAbility for Africa

AgrAbility for Africa has been doing outreach and visiting different disability support organizations and partners. Among them is Katalemwa Cheshire Home for Rehabilitation Services. [More](#)



In other efforts to expand capacity, outreach, and impact, staff opened talks with the Institute for Community Inclusion to explore possibilities in disability, vocational rehabilitation, and employment under the Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement, a U.S. State Department project.

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### Staff Changes and Recognition

#### Missouri

The Brain Injury Association-MO welcomes two new staff members to implement Missouri AgrAbility activities. Trista Lewis will serve as the office administrator with responsibilities that include Brain Injury Fact of the Day, office operations, and marketing. Trista is an Army veteran with experience in digital marketing, sales, and office administration. Bessie Cox is the new BIA-MO program manager with responsibilities that include community resource services, one-on-one technical assistance with AgrAbility clients, and outreach education for farmers with brain injury. Bessie has experience in mental health services, case management, and computers.

#### Nebraska



The Nebraska AgrAbility team welcomes new team member Soni Cochran! Soni has worked with Nebraska Extension for 29 years. She has statewide roles as the community engagement and wellness associate, and interim disaster education coordinator. Soni grew up on a family farm and is passionate about supporting rural families and veterans.

#### New Mexico

NMAP wishes to say goodbye to Dr. Carla Wilhite who has moseyed along to become the program director at Colorado Mesa University's occupational therapy program. Thank you, Dr. Wilhite, for all you have done to promote better understanding of the needs of food producers in the state of New Mexico.

NMAP wishes to welcome Dr. Patricia (Trish) Siegel, assistant professor, and Mary Thelander Hill, lecturer II, both with the New Mexico University Occupational Therapy Graduate Program to the grant. Dr. Siegel, who is an occupational therapist and certified hand therapist, will focus on educational outreach. Ms. Thelander Hill will focus on direct farmer intervention and supervising OT students in the community.

#### North Carolina

NC AgrAbility welcomes

- Dr. Crystal Cook Marshal, NC AgrAbility partnership director and NC Agromedicine Institute coordinator. She holds a Ph.D. in science and technology studies of society. She has vast experience working in different sectors and multidisciplinary projects.
- Kelsey Kilgore, NC AgrAbility field agent. An OT, M.S., Kelsey has experience in rehabilitation and education. She also has some farming experience and



## Virginia

AgrAbility Director Dr. Kim Niewolny was recently awarded a Southern Extension Region Risk Management Education Center Project of Excellence award for a "Farm Stress, Wellness, and Safety Education" initiative in which AgrAbility Virginia played a central role.

## Washington

WSAP welcomes Emily Gilquist to our staff. She grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota and moved to the Skagit Valley five years ago to pursue a career in small-scale agriculture. She now owns a small farm where she raises eggs and lamb and is passionate about building community and growing everything. Emily is excited to be joining the WSU Extension team to help make agricultural work healthier and more accessible!



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### AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Disability Advocacy and Awareness](#) (Ohio AgrAbility, Kansas AgrAbility Project, Alaska AgrAbility Project)
- [The Basics of On-Farm Safety: An Introductory Guide by the AgrAbility Virginia Program](#) (AgrAbility Virginia)
- [Community Agriculture Alliance: Colorado AgrAbility Offers Free Workshop in Steamboat Springs](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Project - Illinois](#) (Illinois AgrAbility Unlimited - Affiliate)
- [Healthcare Workforce 2-1-1/LIFELINE - Arthritis](#) (Multiple SRAPs and the National AgrAbility Project)
- [Assistive Technology for Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers & their Employers](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
- [Seeds -- Farming strong despite Multiple Sclerosis](#) (Nebraska AgrAbility)
- [Four CSU leaders featured among Who's Who in Agriculture for 2022](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
- [Maine seafood harvesters are taking on an unexpected new hobby](#) (Maine AgrAbility)

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### Other News

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

- [Agricultural Producers Have Until March 15 to Enroll in USDA's Key Commodity Safety Net Programs](#)
- [FARMER VETERAN COALITION PARTNERS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND](#)
- [Boyd Announces 2022-2023 Next Generation Black and Hispanic Farmers Scholarship Program Application Deadline May 15, 2022](#)
- [Safety contest helps defend against grain bin deaths in rural America](#)
- [Black innovators who reshaped American gardening, farming](#)
- [Farm Bureau Tradition of Giving Back Continues through Harvest for All Program](#)
- [Virtual reality farm tour expands access to urban agriculture](#)
- [Carbon Robotics Unveils New LaserWeeder with 30 Lasers to Autonomously Eradicate Weeds](#)
- [Creating value-added products to preserve farm freshness and benefit farmers markets](#)

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## UpcomingEvents

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

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

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March 2022

### **National AgrAbility Project**

The National AgrAbility Project, Purdue's Gearing Up for Safety youth ag safety program, Good Days Work (OSHA training for ag), and Life Essentials participated together as exhibitors at the 2022 National Farm Machinery Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, on February 16-19. Staff and volunteers from each exhibitor were at the display and talked to many farmers, clients, and other exhibitors. The exhibit included AgrAbility resources, Gearing Up for Safety publications and videos, Good Days Work publications, a John Deere tractor with a Life Essentials lift, and an Action TrackStander power wheelchair.

Submitted by Steve Swain

March 2022

## Alaska

Alaska AgrAbility non-profit partner ATLA is providing a free Assistive Technology Virtual Expo from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. AKT (1 p.m. - 4 p.m. ET) on Wednesday, April 20th and Thursday, April 21st. The sessions will either be 25 minutes or 50 minutes long, exploring AT devices and services for people with a wide range of disabilities. The focus will be on AT for employment, education, and community living. Learn more at <https://www.atlaak.org/home/at-virtual-expo>.

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The statewide seven-part series titled "From the Ground Up," which was a partnership between AKAgrAbility, Kenai Peninsula Soil & Water Conservation District, and Cooperative Extension, concluded on March 1st. This was a virtual series delivered via Zoom, and sessions were recorded. Due to overwhelming requests to extend the viewing time on session recordings, recordings were uploaded to a dedicated YouTube page where participants can view sessions until the end of March. Over 230 people registered from more than 45 communities around the state.

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Art Nash taught a four-part series noncredit course titled "Adaptive and Enabled Garden Growing" throughout February for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) based in Fairbanks, Alaska. OLLI is a program of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) that is led and supported by its membership, and determines its own curriculum, policies, procedures, and fees. There are over 100 other OLLI's around the nation, but the programs are completely independent. What OLLI's have in common is financial support from the Bernard Osher Foundation. OLLI at UAF offers a rich and wide variety of classes and learning opportunities for adults who are 50 or older.

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AKAgrAbility will be participating in a new FishAbility working group. So far, participating SRAPs consist of Maine, Washington, and Michigan. The purpose of the group will be to share resources, best practices, and collaborations around AgrAbility work with commercial fishers of all types. If interested in participating in monthly meetings beginning in April, please contact DeShana York at [ddyork@alaska.edu](mailto:ddyork@alaska.edu).

Submitted by DeShana York

March 2022

## California



California AgrAbility staff attended the 20th annual month-long Healthy Aging Education Series, part of the UC Davis Healthy Aging Initiative. The initiative is a UC Davis Health system-wide approach to expand geriatric clinical services to improve quality of life for patients 65 and older and their caregivers. This year's event was a virtual event highlighting several important topics,

such as advanced care planning, palliative care and post-acute services, difficult decisions in caregiving, depression later in life, medication management, and many more.

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California AgrAbility staff met with Clinica Tepatí representatives, a non-profit student-run clinic in Sacramento, California, to discuss the offering of arthritis exercise classes to clinic patients. The classes will take participants through a series of low impact exercises aimed at improving strength, mobility, and coordination. Through this partnership, California AgrAbility staff will provide Clinica Tepatí health educators with the necessary materials to obtain training and certification to become arthritis exercise program instructors.

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California AgrAbility staff participated in the 2022 Capay Valley Almond Festival. Staff introduced the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) and presented on AgrAbility services. The festival drew farmers, farmworkers, and other locals from surrounding communities. This year's festival is noted as an event that marks the return to in-person events. After the program presentations, attendees toured the almond orchards. A couple of weeks every February, tree branches in orchards throughout Capay Valley appear as though they're snow-covered. The white petals creating the winter wonderland effect are almond blossoms, the delicate flowers of the namesake trees that are grown commercially in only five regions in the world, one being California's Capay Valley.



Submitted by California AgrAbility Project

March 2022

## Georgia



On February 22nd, Georgia AgrAbility staff participated in a panel on "Future Innovations in Agriculture and Sustainability." The panel was part of the Future of Georgia Summit hosted by the Georgia Chamber. Staff talked about precision agriculture and how AgrAbility can use precision agriculture to keep farmers with a disability farming. The panel discussion had 60

audience members.

Submitted by Whitney Paige Ostrander

March 2022

## Indiana



Indiana AgrAbility consultant Steve Etheridge and Chuck Baldwin, project manager, staffed a booth February 4-5 at the Northern Indiana Grazing Conference in Shipshewana. In spite of the harsh winter weather, a new attendance record was set for the event with 2,267 visitors, who were primarily Amish or Plain farmers, along with exhibitors and program speakers.



A great lunch was served both days and there was an abundance of new horse-drawn agricultural equipment and booths touting health aids from vitamins to acupuncture. This year's event also included a new exhibit of various kinds of sheep to spur on the rising interest among the Amish in raising sheep or goats in



addition to their cows and horses.

The IN AgrAbility booth displayed a variety of AgrAbility literature, including the *Plain Facts about Arthritis: A Guide to Understanding and Living with Arthritis in Plain Communities* pamphlet and the *Weeds in Our Garden* coloring and activity book that targets safety for children on Amish/Plain farms. It was often the children being drawn to the literature that would encourage their parents to learn about AgrAbility from Steve and Chuck.

Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin have been presenting AgrAbility to groups of urban BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) farmers thanks to one of AgrAbility's partners. John Jamerson, director of the LIFE Project (USDA 2501 grant) that has the National AgrAbility Project as a partner, has been working with NRCS and other USDA agencies to produce a series of one-day conferences in Indiana for these urban farmers. The goal of the conferences is to help urban farmers see how they can benefit from USDA agencies and services.



Called the "[Black Loam Conferences](#)", four of them have been scheduled: Evansville, February 19; Fort Wayne, February 26; Gary, March 12; and Bloomington, March 19. Indiana AgrAbility staff Ed Sheldon spoke and staffed a booth at the Evansville event where about 35 people attended, and will also work the upcoming one in Bloomington. Chuck Baldwin exhibited and spoke at the Fort Wayne conference with 50 attendees and will

do the same in Gary the day before heading to the NTW.

An interesting highlight of the Fort Wayne conference was having seven Burmese urban farmers in attendance with a translator.



Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

March 2022

## Kansas



Kansas AgrAbility Project (KAP) enjoyed interacting with attendees at another Women Managing The Farm Conference in Manhattan, Kansas. Staff provided an interactive exhibit with one-hand gate latches, AT devices and tools, and a riding saddle featuring a back support. The conference was attended by over 200 women from Kansas and surrounding states.

Keynote speakers included Courtenay DeHoff, also known as Fancy Lady Cowgirl. Staff also presented during a breakout session featuring the KAP Protect, Preserve and Plan Through Change program by sharing a slide deck and demonstrating items that are helpful on and off the farm to protect the body and avoid secondary injury.

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Tawnie Larson, KAP project coordinator, participated in a feature segment with Agriculture Today, the Kansas State University Radio Network, to discuss the recent

KAP fact sheet titled "[Managing Stress: Tips and Resources](#)". The interview and fact sheet were both aimed at informing those that work in agriculture that stress is a common occurrence. The tip sheet references Dr. Robert J. Fetch's "Managing Stress During Tough Times" as a resource to identify signs of stress and how to manage stress. The publication also provides local and national resources for readers to utilize for support.

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Kansas AgrAbility was invited to present in the state-wide "Risk Management Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture" series sponsored by K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) and the Department of Agricultural Economics. The program is hosted in-person by Extension agents in 30 sites throughout Kansas. Some programming is presented in-person and others via Zoom. KAP found the format helpful in presenting throughout the state without requiring travel resources. Tawnie Larson modified the KAP "Protect, Preserve and Plan through Change" presentation to focus on how making changes can mitigate risk throughout the farm, including personnel, operations, and equipment.

Submitted by Tawnie Larson



March 2022

## Maine

Maine AgrAbility currently has a master's OT student doing her 12-week, level 2 fieldwork experience with them. Corey Young, University of New England (UNE), grew up on a dairy farm in southern Maine. Corey has been creating AT bulletins to share with B2B students, including a presentation on hand health for farmers and gardeners. Staff will be posting this presentation to the [Maine AgrAbility video webpage](#) in the near future.



2022's Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners and Farmers has finished the first two months of programming covering topics like safe food handling, crop planning, and small fruit and vegetable production. Each session has included relevant AgrAbility topics and AT ideas. On the B2B horizon: a seedling production farm visit in Damariscotta at [Morning Dew Farm](#).



Maine's first month of [Who's Got Your Back blog posts](#) focused on fishing-related work tasks, counter stretches, and resources to encourage better health to minimize injury and pain. This effort is a collaboration of [FishAbility](#), [OryxWorx](#) and [Maine Coast Fishermen's Association](#), and has been shared widely on social media platforms to generate conversations and sharing of resources.

Staff have been busy sharing Maine AgrAbility resources to a variety of audiences: talking to OT students about AT ideas at UNE, beginning farmers as part of UMaine Cooperative Extension's "So You Think You Want to Farm in Maine? ," and veterans participating in B2B sessions. Staff have also participated in meetings and shared resources with agriculture service providers working with the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network in New England and Maine, including fishing and logging industry professionals.

Submitted by Lani Carlson

March 2022

## Michigan

The famous Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Frankenmuth, Michigan, selected Michigan AgrAbility as its annual charity for 2021. Throughout the year, Bavarian Inn held fundraising events and gathered donations. Employees contributed through designated giving. Events included a bike night, dunk tank, holiday open house, candy sale, and donation boxes. Bavarian Inn matched the employee payroll deduction dollars.



Hospitality employee Brik Rupprecht had suggested AgrAbility as the charity recipient. As a student, he was a past chairman of the AGR Beef Preview Show benefiting MI AgrAbility at Michigan State University. Bavarian Inn's generous gift of over \$15,000 will provide financial support to numerous farmers this year. Thank you, Bavarian Inn staff and guests, for supporting farmers!

Submitted by Beverly Berens and Hailey TenHarmsel

March 2022

## Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on continuing its MO AgrAbility team campaign, Grain Bin Safety Week, American Heart Month, and promotion of MU Extension and partner programs. Please make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility, @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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MU Extension and its Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) collaborative partner and brain injury stakeholders developed the Brain Injury Awareness Month Promotional Toolkit and shared it with cooperative organizations and stakeholders. Missouri's Brain Injury Awareness Toolkit is a handy resource that can be used to help farmers, ranchers, individuals, and families with traumatic brain injury who live and work in rural and urban communities. The Brain Injury Awareness Month Promotional Toolkit is found [HERE](#).

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Missouri AgrAbility staff continue to provide fee-for-service direct onsite farmstead assessments for Missouri's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. The primary objectives continue to focus on the early identification of farm and rural families, including veterans with disabilities, who are in need of AgrAbility services related to disability and to provide individualized on-the-farm consultative services that increase the likelihood that AgrAbility customers and their farm operations experience success.

Submitted by Tevin Uthlaut and Karen Funkenbusch

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Missouri AgrAbility offered its third education-based program to agricultural professionals and collaborative partners with a focus on mental health and farmers with disabilities. The first of three education-based mental health series took place in-person at Lincoln University's Carver Research Farm in Jefferson City, Missouri, with the focus on "Weathering the Storm." The second training provided was "QPR Gatekeeper," and lastly, a more in-depth mental health training for Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) ISFOP and collaborative staff members was "Mental Health First Aid." The last two training workshops were delivered via ZOOM and attended by all four regions of Missouri covered by Lincoln University's Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP). The purpose of the mental health training workshops was to offer LUCE ISFOP staff and collaborating partners more mental health resources for their toolbox to better connect and serve AgrAbility customers throughout the state of Missouri. Additionally, this AgrAbility mental health network will allow LUCE to provide ongoing support for AgrAbility customers, farm families, and stakeholders throughout the state of Missouri.

Submitted by Shon Bishop

March 2022

## Nebraska



Nebraska Farm Bureau recently hosted its annual Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Conference in Kearney. The YF&R program is composed of men and women ages 18-35 who are Farm Bureau members and looking to develop their leadership skills while also meeting and networking with their peers. As part of the annual conference event, the planning committee hosts a cornhole tournament and pays forward the proceeds to

a deserving project that aligns with their mission. The Nebraska AgrAbility program was designated as their 2022 project recipient and the proceeds were matched 1:1 by Nebraska Farm Bureau. Nebraska AgrAbility had the opportunity to share a video and feature a personal testimony from an AgrAbility client who is also a Farm Bureau member. The Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots statewide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans. More than 55,000 families across Nebraska are [Farm Bureau](#) members.

Submitted by Susan Harris

March 2022

## North Carolina



NC AgrAbility Partnership was an exhibitor at the 2022 Southern Farm Show in Raleigh, NC, from February 2-4. The participation of the Farmer Veteran Coalition was a success in helping attract more veterans to NC AgrAbility.

The program was able to reach many farmers and non-farmers who had the chance to learn about the NC AgrAbility services and the FVC-NC benefits. The program gained at least two referrals for direct services. The 2022 North Carolina Miss Agriculture Advocacy Ambassador, Katie Haynes, added creativity and enjoyment to the team.



Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

March 2022

## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility presented information on OAP services, vocational rehabilitation, and accommodating farmers with disabilities to a class of occupational therapists at Wilmington College. Wilmington College has recently started a rural-focused OT program, and AgrAbility staff are eager to develop collaborative opportunities with the program and students. In addition to giving an overview of accommodations and assistive technology, OAP staff presented the OTs with three scenarios based on OAP farmers and asked the OTs what AT, modifications, and task-based changes they might recommend to the farmers. Students were also asked to come up with several questions they would ask these farmers about their work, farms, equipment, and disabilities or limitations. Students were encouraged to think of ways they could work with Ohio AgrAbility, such as developing OAP resources and talking points for OTs and medical professionals, and social media campaigns about safety and good body mechanics for farming.



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Ohio AgrAbility, Kansas AgrAbility, and Alaska AgrAbility recently wrote a self-determined 4-H project publication: *Disability Advocacy and Awareness*, which has been published on the Ohio State University Extension 4-H website: <https://ohio4h.org/selfdetermined>

Self-determined 4-H projects are projects for members who have a great project idea of their own or who want to work beyond a current project book. [Disability Advocacy and Awareness](#) has four topic areas: Person First, Safety, Service and Advocacy, and Wellness and Lifestyle. The idea starter also includes a [Person First Survey](#), a [Community Survey Checklist](#), and a [Greenhouse Activity](#).

Submitted by Laura Akgerman

March 2022



## Pennsylvania

February brought several opportunities to further outreach initiatives as well as educational presentations.

### Outreach Initiatives:

- Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention: AgrAbility shared space with the PA Office of Rural Health's Worker Protection Standard display at this regional convention. Information available at the exhibit included AgrAbility and PA Assistive Technology Foundation.
- Lebanon County Livestock and Crop Day: AgrAbility and PA Assistive Technology Foundation information were included in Penn State's "Ag Safety and Health" exhibit at this event.
- PA Farm Bureau Young Ag Professionals Conference: AgrAbility staff provided an exhibit and networked with young farmers and ag professionals from across Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland; shared information on cab cameras, assistive technology, AgrAbility, and PA Assistive Technology Foundation.

### Educational Presentations:

- Staffers Abbie Spackman, Linda Fetzer, and Kendra Martin presented on the topic: "Selecting Farm Tools and Equipment for Health, Safety and Accessibility" at the statewide sustainable agriculture conference, Pasa. The team brought with them and demonstrated several types of tools and showcased larger farm equipment using photos and videos. 
- PI Dr. Suzanna Windon presented at the Southern AAAE Conference on the topic of Pennsylvania farmers working in agriculture during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic: what was their stress level and what were their resilience factors.
- Staffers Abbie Spackman and Linda Fetzer presented in the BRS 426 (Biorenewable Systems) undergraduate class at Penn State University. Abbie highlighted AgrAbility, gloves/hand safety, and person-first language, and Linda shared information on youth ag safety. 
- Staffer Abbie Spackman taught high school ag students from 7th-12th grade about AgrAbility and assistive technology, and they worked in teams to solve AgrAbility worksite assessment scenarios.

Submitted by Kendra Martin

March 2022

## Tennessee



TN AgrAbility exhibited and assisted the Extension team during a presentation at one of the sessions for the Pick TN Conference 2022 "Lunch and Learn: How Extension Agents and Specialists Can Help." The 2022 conference was the two-year anniversary celebration of the Tennessee Chapter of Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC). The chapter hosted a BBQ networking event on Thursday evening at the local VFW, and held its annual meeting on Friday afternoon at the Pick TN Conference. Ron Bridges, the FVC TN Chapter president said, "It was at this conference in 2020 that we officially stood up the TN state chapter of FVC. It was great to reconnect with old friends and just as important to make new friends throughout the three-day event. Our annual meeting on Friday was very inspiring and invigorating to me. It was great to see so many new people that were wanting to join in and engage in our efforts to help our fellow veterans grow in their farming careers. The current leadership team will be pulling together all of the information we gleaned and should be able to provide a slate of candidates for the full membership to vote on. This will help to keep the chapter viable and growing as we work to create a new and better 'normal' post-COVID. I look forward to seeing how the chapter will grow with this new infusion of energy and ideas." He thanked TN AgrAbility and Extension for partnering to help veterans who want to farm. TN AgrAbility is part of the ag advisory council.

TN AgrAbility's disability non-profit partner, the STAR Center, presented at the fourth session for the new online learning opportunity: [Master Farm Family and Health Wellness Program \(MFFHW\)](#). 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. Tara Janssen, STAR Center occupational therapist and assistive technology specialist, presented "Prevent and Preserve: Being Proactive to Protect Your Health." The eight-week program helped producers and farm families gain knowledge while 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.



TN AgrAbility is working to reach new Extension staff through quarterly "Assistive Technology Tuesday" Zoom webinars. February held the first Zoom webinar. After a brief introduction to AgrAbility services, a 4-H agent asked if AgrAbility helps students with disabilities like autism find a job after school. Staff explained that they would refer students to one of their partners, the state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). VR has services that include transition services from school to work. The student and family would work closely with a VR counselor to develop an individualized plan for employment (IPE) that outlines a program of services that leads to successful employment.

TN AgrAbility presented at one of the Progressive Agriculture Safety Days "Booster Session: Welcoming Participants & Volunteers with Special Needs". The event featured AgrAbility, and two key points were asking farmers with disabilities to be part of a safety day's planning committee and always including all participants. For anyone interested in hosting a safety day in their state, visit <https://www.progressiveag.org/GetInvolved.cgi>



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Humboldt Lions Club asked for TN AgrAbility to attend its February meeting to present an AgrAbility and grain bin program. At the end of the meeting, Humboldt Lions Club presented TN AgrAbility staff with a check to purchase a Turtle Rescue Tube for a fire department. When asked to talk about your program, go! One never knows what will come out of it.



Sixty rescue personnel and ag producers from Cannon, Coffee, DeKalb, Grundy, Rutherford, and Warren counties attended the TN Grain Bin Safety/Rescue Awareness training. With assistance from UT and TSU Extension agents from the aforementioned counties, TN AgrAbility and TN Association of Rescue Squads presented an eight-hour awareness training. Rescue personnel received eight hours of CEUs, and ag producers received two credit hours of equipment and technology for Master Row Crop Producer certification.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

March 2022

## Washington

Northwest Access Fund, in cooperation with WSAP, is launching a series of four webinars titled "[So you've had a farm injury? What next.](#)":

- March 4 - AgrAbility: What is it? What does it do, and can it help me?
- March 11 - Assistive Technology: What's available, How to choose it, How to fund it
- March 18 - Medical Debt and Charity Care: Income-Eligible Programs for Emergency Medical Care Expenses
- March 25 - Applying for Social Security Disability Benefits

Submitted by Kristen Hinton-Vanvalkenburg

March 2022

## AgrAbility for Africa



AgrAbility for Africa has been doing outreach and visiting different disability support organizations and partners. Among them is Katalemwa Cheshire Home for Rehabilitation Services. These outreach missions are meant to share experiences, fine-tune collaboration goals, and support and boost each other's capacity for



a greater impact. Combined staff will be working on scaling AT technology skills, with Katalemwa providing the skills training and the AgrAbility for Africa team supporting the arrangement in many different ways. Further, the AgrAbility for Africa team will be working to improve the home's farm productivity. Thus, AgrAbility for Africa welcomes interested volunteers with expertise and experience in vegetable vertical farming, aquaponics, beekeeping, and poultry farming to reach out and share their skills to boost farm production and nutrition for the resident children. One of the goals is to set up an employment training farm, which targets farm skill improvement for the youth under rehabilitation at the home and for the community.



Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

March 2022

## Upcoming Events

- 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** Wearable Assistive Technology for Agricultural Workers  
**Dates** March 29, 2022, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET  
**City, State** Webinar Online  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://mainecite.org/training/webinar-wearable-assistive-technology-for-agricultural-workers/>
- 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** AT Virtual Expo  
**Dates** April 20-21, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET  
**City, State** Zoom Online  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.atlaak.org/home/at-virtual-expo>
- Name** 2022 World Pork Expo  
**Dates** June 8-10, 2022  
**City, State** Des Moines, Iowa  
**Contact** <https://www.worldpork.org/>

**Info/Web  
link**

**Name** North American Manure Expo

**Dates** July 13-14, 2022

**City, State** Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

**Contact** <https://www.manureexpo.ca/>

**Info/Web  
link**

**Name** AgrileadHER™ Women's Agriculture Conference

**Dates** August 17-18, 2022

**City, State** Virtual Conference

**Contact** [www.agrileadHER.com](http://www.agrileadHER.com)

**Info/Web  
link**