

AgrAbility e·Note

May 2022

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting. Save the date for Thursday, June 23 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

NEW WEBINAR DATE: NAP has changed the date for the AgrAbility/North Central FRSSAN webinar "[Veterans, Agriculture, and Stress](#)" to Thursday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. ET. This is due to an overlap with the USDA virtual conference "[Sustainable Livelihoods and Behavioral Health: Strategies and Partnerships to Address Farm Stress and Suicide.](#)" Consider participating in both events.

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about the 2023 NTW. Anyone interested in being on the planning committee is requested to send an email to Tess at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org, and she will add you to the planning committee list. A Doodle poll was sent out recently to the committee to schedule the first meeting, so anyone else interested in being a part should let Tess know as soon as possible. Contact tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.447.9015 or jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.402.2059



An AgrAbility regional workshop will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Columbus Easton from June 28th-30th. Room reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn may be made by clicking [HERE](#). The room block closes on May 27th, so don't miss out. [More](#)

Save the date: October 10th-13th, 2022, for a regional workshop in Reno, NV. More information to come. For any questions or if interested in hosting a regional workshop, contact Tess McKeel at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or 585-447-9015.



Ned Stoller and Joe Ricker hosted a Zoom meeting on a Beekeeping Community of Interest (COI) on April 29th. The intent was to determine the breadth of organizations that have ideas for adaptive technology to assist veterans. [More](#)

National AgrAbility has started holding "virtual office hours" every first and third Wednesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET. Contact jonesp@purdue.edu if you need details.

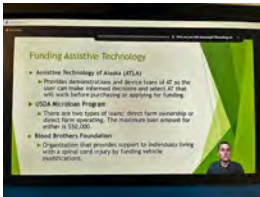
Toolbox Spotlight



Designed for high-tensile inline fence wire splicing or post terminations, a [Drill-Powered High-Tensile Wire Twisting Tool](#) allows workers with hand or strength impairments to securely join and wrap overlapping fence wires together with professional-looking results. The geared device attaches to a 3/8-inch cordless drill.

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska



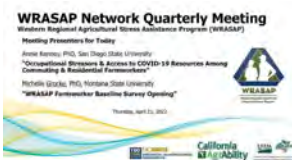
Alaska AgrAbility's (AKAgrAbility's) partner agency, Assistive Technology of Alaska, hosted an "Assistive Technology Virtual Expo" across two days. Kyle Haney with the Georgia AgrAbility program provided a session on "Assistive Technology for Farmers and Rural Community Members."

Through a community challenge grant issued through Alaska AARP, Art Nash built a small variety of raised bed planter boxes and a trellis box at the Palmer Senior Center. [More](#)

AKAgrAbility staff provided information regarding assistive technology and services for agricultural workers to a variety of organizations including the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, [More](#)



California



California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network quarterly meeting. Dr. Annie J. Keeney from San Diego State University's School of Social Work discussed findings from a recent project, "Occupational Stressors and Access to COVID-19 Resources Among Commuting and Residential Farmworkers." [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff attended the 2022 Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health in Portland, Oregon, as part of the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program Network. [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff joined representatives from local organizations and agencies at April's monthly RISE meeting. [More](#)



Colorado



The Colorado State University Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity has been a supporter of the Colorado AgrAbility Project for many years. This year, on April 13, 2022, the AGR folks hosted a BBQ fundraiser at their fraternity house. CAP was invited to attend so James, Candy, and Jim made the trip to Fort Collins to enjoy some BBQ with the AGR and their supporters from the Sigma Alpha Sorority.

Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility and the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network are partnering to address farmer stress. One of the pilot projects is called "Meet at the Shed," and it is a unique way of bringing people together to improve mental health through building a sense of community and belonging. [More](#)



On April 12th, Georgia AgrAbility held an advisory board meeting. There was a good turnout of board members representing various commodity organizations. They were very excited about all of the initiatives Georgia AgrAbility has underway.



An agricultural student group from the United Kingdom came to the University of Georgia Tifton Campus and requested to hear about AgrAbility. [More](#)

Staff enjoyed doing a virtual presentation titled "Assistive Technology for Farmers and Rural Community Members" at the Assistive Technology Expo hosted by Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA). Thanks to DeShana York with Alaska AgrAbility for inviting Georgia AgrAbility to do this presentation.

AgrAbility staff have been working on converting an enclosed trailer to a mobile cooling unit for a client. The client sells produce and vegetables directly to consumers at local farmers markets. [More](#)

Indiana

Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, represented Indiana AgrAbility at the March 19 Indiana Black Loam Conference in Bloomington, Indiana. Ed presented about AgrAbility's services to underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, distributed AgrAbility resources, and visited with conference participants as they browsed the exhibit area. [More](#)



Paul Jones gave a presentation on AgrAbility and other disability topics to the Purdue University AGR 201 Communicating Across Culture class on April 21. Ed Bell - long-time friend of AgrAbility, consultant, and new papaw - made the session come alive by sharing his perspective from decades of personal experience.

Maine

As spring emerges in Maine, staff have been across the state meeting with new and existing clients. What a nice change to meet people in-person! One farm visit included a 75-minute ferry ride to an island off the coast of central Maine.

During April, several sessions were offered to engage new audiences and share program resources. "Gardening & Ergonomics by Maine AgrAbility" was presented three times to more than 40 people across southern and central Maine. [More](#)



As part of a driver evaluation presentation to vocational rehabilitation, Ketra Crosson, OT, discussed the partnership with Maine AgrAbility and how the driver evaluation and an

equipment assessment work together.



Brie Weisman gave a virtual presentation titled "Managing Pain on the Farm" as part of the Saginaw Valley State University SOTA conference. This session was also presented at the NTW, and staff encourage other SRAPs to use [this Pain Tool](#) with their clients and provide feedback on its use.

Be sure to check out the newest articles and information shared on the Maine AgrAbility website. [More](#)

Michigan

The Michigan State University Alpha Gamma Rho TAU Chapter (MSU AGR) presented a check to Michigan AgrAbility for \$18,000! Over the past several years, MSU AGR has contributed \$120,000 to Michigan AgrAbility through their annual Beef Preview Show. Thank you to MSU AGR and the Beef Preview Show sponsors and exhibitors.



Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility, through its collaborative efforts with the Missouri State Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Stress grant initiative, disseminated its behavioral health/mental health tool kit to farm families, agricultural groups, stakeholders, and others. [More](#)

To address the needs of its customers, Missouri AgrAbility continues to build service capacity across the state through education and networking. As such, Missouri AgrAbility and its collaborative partners facilitated the following: [More](#)

Missouri is also assisting client farmers with best practices of selecting and placing accessible beekeeping equipment on their farms.

Missouri AgrAbility marketing is being incorporated into upcoming Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) one-day regional outdoor camps. [More](#)

Nebraska

Staff set up a booth at the state FFA convention in Lincoln, offering hands-on lessons about how to work in ag with a physical limitation. Different AT solutions were out on the table for use with various mock disabilities. It was a popular booth and there were some great questions about AgrAbility!



The Nebraska AgrAbility team presented an all-day CEU workshop for 23 OTs, PTs, OTAs, PTAs, and students, to educate them about AgrAbility and how healthcare workers might consider the culture and work of farmers/ranchers as patients. [More](#)

AgrAbility was the topic of a Lincoln middle school student's "Make a Difference" fair presentation. Callia was inspired to present on the hazards of agricultural occupations and the benefits of rural rehabilitation by her grandfather, who is a recipient of AgrAbility services. [More](#)





Staff provided sleep education as it relates to safety and health for over 250 3rd and 4th grade students at two community safety days.

New Mexico

The New Mexico AgrAbility Project (NMAP) team completed a two-day training with Candiss Leathers, program manager of Colorado AgrAbility, on best practices for farm site evaluations and the cultural and environmental considerations needed when providing recommendations for farmers and ranchers.

Mandy's Farm, NMAP's nonprofit partner, is collaborating with three-dimensional printing students at Central New Mexico Community College to create a gear-reduction system for adapting a typical compost tumbler for use by people with mobility challenges.

The NMAP team has created their spring newsletter and it can be viewed on their website by clicking [here](#).

North Carolina

This year, the Union County 2022 Embracing Transition Fair was featured on Thursday, April 28. Hundreds of students with special needs attended the event. Students in the transition to adulthood and occupational course of study programs made presentations about their job responsibilities from their worksite. [More](#)



On April 30 NC AgrAbility Partnership participated as an exhibitor at the 2022 Iredell Garden Fair among 40+ exhibitors and almost 800 attendees. The event was a place to fellowship and learn, and an opportunity to acquire gardening materials for the upcoming planting seasons. [More](#)

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff have been busy interacting with farmers and gardeners this spring. Laura Akgerman, disability services coordinator, presented to three different groups of gardeners in April. Topics included "Ergonomic Gardening," "Adaptive Gardening in Small Spaces," and "Gardening as We Age."

Ohio Staff are preparing for the Regional Workshop in Ohio June 28 - 30 and hope AgrAbility and Extension colleagues from across the country come to Ohio for this urban ag, workforce and wellness workshop.

Pennsylvania

Spring has sprung in Pennsylvania! Activities across the state and beyond have kept AgrAbility PA staff members busy, busy, busy.

April began with Outreach Coordinator Kendra Martin attending a conference hosted by PA Veteran Farming Network. This annual event drew more than 100 Veterans from across the state. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA was highlighted during a statewide PSU Extension support

staff meeting with the goal being to equip Extension staff on how to promote and refer people to AgrAbility within the Extension county offices.

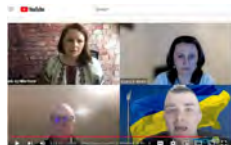


Case Coordinator and Project Assistant Abbie Spackman provided a training session to the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) FARM Coordinator staff; 25 coordinators from across the state. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA participated in the PA Farm Link board meeting hosted at Rodale Institute. [More](#)

Project Manager Linda Fetzer co-presented the Communicating with Farmers under Stress workshop for ag service providers in the northwest part of the state. [More](#)

AgrAbility and the topic of person-first language was featured as the DEI training via Zoom for Penn State Extension customer relation managers on April 21.



Project Director Suzanna Windon continued her academic research, presentations, and outreach on the topics of leadership, stress, and agriculture at a dozen or more professional stateside and international conferences. [More](#)

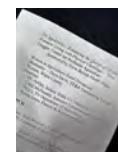
Tennessee

Central TN New Farmer Academy (NFA) Instructor and TN AgrAbility TSU PI Finis Stribling and John Ferrell, TSU ANR Extension agent, demonstrated two pieces of equipment - a tractor and a Rain-Flo 2400 Plastic Mulch Layer to students at the April NFA. [More](#)



Emergency Management Association Training Conference invited TN AgrAbility, TN Farm Bureau, and TN Association of Rescue Squads to set up a TN Grain Bin Safety & Rescue Awareness Training display. [More](#)

TN Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Conference invited TN AgrAbility staff to present on AgrAbility, Women in Ag, and TN Grain Bin Safety & Rescue Awareness trainings. Troy Dugger, PI for TN AgrAbility and program coordinator for Center for Profitable Agriculture, represented TNAP well.



"Reach for your dreams" is Sydney's message for Tennesseans with autism. TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) highlighted autism during April by sharing stories of Tennesseans with autism. [More](#)

A friend of a friend of a friend is how a Gibson County farmer and the love from his family and friends was able to have a lift built for his tractor. "All I want is for my dad to be able to continue farming for as long as he can." said his son Travis when he called TNAP. [More](#)



Bed garden rows up with this innovative assistive technology device (these are big words) designed by Blake Brown, gardener, farmer, and director at UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan. Visit Tennessee AgrAbility|Facebook for the entire story and video.

Assistive Technology Awareness Day (April 6) was promoted by The Star Center, TN AgrAbility's nonprofit partner, and was used to introduce their assistive technology specialists across the state. [More](#)

The 2022 UT Organic Farming and Gardening Field Day was a great day of outreach and education for TN AgrAbility. TN AgrAbility joined with Frontline Gardens at an exhibit booth with creative ways to show "Everywhere You Look UT" and TN AgrAbility. [More](#)



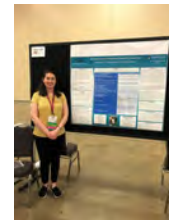
SAVE THE DATE: The LIFE Project/AgrAbility/TSU 1890s Workshop is to be held at Tennessee State University's downtown Nashville campus June 7-8, 2022.[More](#)

Texas



Texas AgrAbility staff attended the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference in San Antonio. They manned a booth that promoted the National AgrAbility Project and Texas AgrAbility Project to current and future occupational therapists.

Texas AgrAbility's occupational therapist Faye McGuire presented a poster at the AOTA conference on "BattleGround to Breaking Ground's Impact on Veterans' Employment in Agriculture."



Staff conducted a farm assessment as a training opportunity for an occupational therapy (OT) intern and OT professor from St. Augustine University.

Texas AgrAbility conducted an assessment for a client with mobility limitations. Staff are working collaboratively with Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure the client's mobility needs are met.

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff attended a workshop on "The Nuts and Bolts of Disability Income Insurance" on April 14 in Logan, Utah, and picked up ideas to better understand and serve their clients.

AgrAbility of Utah enjoys attending the quarterly Western Regional Agriculture Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) webinars and enjoyed the presentation on April 21. Thanks to those who work so hard to educate and spread the word concerning farm mental health.

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 25 open farmer client cases at various levels of engagement and need, and staff provided input and information for an organization currently building an accessible community and forest farm.

AgrAbility Virginia Program Coordinator Garland Mason presented for a Virginia Tech class, "Identity and Inclusion in Agriculture and Life Sciences," on April 14th.

Staff are developing an AgrAbility Virginia network listserv, and more details are available at the link [here](#).

Garland Mason was invited by a farmer client to present on AgrAbility during a board meeting for Health Equity and Access for Rural Regions (HEARR) on May 10 via Zoom.

AgrAbility Virginia Community Outreach Specialist Liza Dobson will be exhibiting at the Boots to Roots workshop for Virginia Farmer Veterans. The workshop will be held at Virginia State University's Randolph Farm and will share information with military veterans

on how to start or manage a profitable farming enterprise. Learn more [here](#).

Washington

Washington State AgrAbility Project presented about its program and described the national program at the 2022 American Farm Bureau Safety Coordinators Conference in Lacey, Washington, at the Washington Farm Bureau office April 27th.

WSAP continues to work with Cherry Creek Media in a digital campaign promoting AgrAbility targeted at rural areas in Washington.

New items have been added to the lending library, including the SpringZback back support brace and a Gorilla Cart.

On-farm demonstrations and workshops are being planned with one of WSAP's partners, Viva Farms, in May and July.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin AgrAbility staff, along with their partners at Easterseals Wisconsin and the UW-Marshfield Ag Research station, hosted the Wisconsin Vocational Rehabilitation counselors for a "day in the life" on-farm training in late April. [More](#)

Staff hosted their annual AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit in Cashton, WI, at the Organic Valley Headquarters. [More](#)

International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa



The AgrAbility for Africa staff hosted teams from the Nile Basin region to discuss industrial and agricultural pollutions, and climate change adaptations and their impact to eco-systems, resilience in farming, and overall farming productivity. [More](#)

Island communities are often forgotten and very hard to reach, but because of the desire and mission of the AgrAbility for Africa staff to bridge services gaps, the team has been busy increasing island visits and extending outreach activities to these farming communities. [More](#)

Staff Changes and Recognition

Texas

Program Coordinator Makenzie Thomas is on maternity leave after having a beautiful baby girl!

Wisconsin

Our staff said goodbye to Outreach Specialist Amanda Harguth on April 30. She is moving on to a new opportunity. We wish her luck in the future.

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Maine AgrAbility Director Brzozowski receives national honor](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
- [COVID brings extra stress to disabled Maine farmers](#) (Maine AgrAbility)
- [MSU's Alpha Gamma Rho chapter hosted beef show benefiting Michigan AgrAbility](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [INDATA Project to Assist Disabled Ag Workers](#) (Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility PA: News & Resources for Farmers with a Disability](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)

Other News

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

- [AgriSafe Response Network-Talking Total Farmer Health Podcast-Episode 7 Mental Health in the Ag Community](#)
- [USDA Hosts Virtual Event on Mental Health Support for Farmers and Ranchers](#)
- [New trial data shows three key management practices increase corn yield potential](#)
- [World Dairy Expo virtual farm tours highlight sustainable technology](#)
- [USDA Hosting Virtual Event on Mental Health Support for Farmers and Ranchers](#)
- [Less immigrant labor in US contributing to price hikes](#)
- [Busch Light, John Deere team up to support American farmers](#)
- [Research shows significant environmental benefits of local food production](#)
- [Pandemic gardening boom shows how gardens can cultivate public health](#)
- [Crop Scouting Using Dirt Bikes Outfitted with Hi-Tech Cameras](#)



Upcoming Events

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

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

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May 2022

National AgrAbility Project

An AgrAbility Regional Workshop will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Columbus Easton from June 28th - 30th. Room reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn may be made by clicking [HERE](#). The room block closes on May 27th, so don't miss out.



This workshop will focus on urban agriculture, working with vocational rehabilitation, prescription medication safety, assistive technology in agriculture, farming with a developmental disability, business planning, and work/life balance. On June 28th and 29th, there will be speakers from the National AgrAbility Project, Ohio AgrAbility Project, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, The Ohio State University Extension, H.A.R.D. Acre Farm, LifeLyfts, Farm Service Agency, and others.

There will also be a day of agricultural tours on Thursday, June 30th. You can find more information and get the link to registration [HERE](#).

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

Ned Stoller and Joe Ricker hosted a Zoom meeting on a Beekeeping Community of Interest (COI) on April 29th. The intent was to determine the breadth of organizations that have ideas for adaptive technology to assist veterans. Attendees from across North America were present, including multiple universities, non-profit programs, and even a veteran program out of Canada. A sample of organizations attending were the NAP, SRAPs from AK, NC, MO, MI, OH, CO, and VA, programs like Heroes to Hives (Michigan State University), Michigan State and Purdue entomology programs, wellbeing programs (Veterans for Beekeeping), and adaptive technology programs (Accessible Beekeeping). The main topics for the discussion were introductions, developing means of communications across the spectrum of this COI, and future meeting development.

The desire is to drive improvements by coordinating efforts across the continent into a more synchronized team of teams. The Beekeeping COI will continue to meet monthly to discuss any action ideas. Everyone is welcome to attend. Anyone wanting to be on the communication list should send their email to Joe Ricker at Ricker2@purdue.edu.

Submitted by Joe Ricker

May 2022

Alaska



Through a community challenge grant issued through Alaska AARP, Art Nash built a small variety of raised bed planter boxes and a trellis box at the Palmer Senior Center. The planting area will be used by patrons of the senior center throughout the summer to grow vegetables, will also serve as a demo area for workshops and instruction related to accessible gardening tools and techniques. The Palmer Senior Center personnel are interested in having a variety



of accessible gardening tools for their patrons to check out throughout the summer. Signage for the constructed gardening area is in the works that will provide educational, resource, and AKAgrAbility contact information for the general public.

AKAgrAbility staff provided information regarding assistive technology and services for agricultural workers to a variety of organizations including the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Wasilla Senior Center Low Vision Group, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Job Center in Fairbanks. Art Nash also delivered a workshop in conjunction with Alaska AARP titled "Gardening: Love to Garden but Aches & Pains Getting in the Way?"

Submitted by DeShana York

May 2022

California



California AgrAbility hosted the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network quarterly meeting. Dr. Annie J. Keeney from San Diego State University's School of Social Work discussed findings from a recent project, "Occupational Stressors and Access to COVID-19 Resources Among Commuting and Residential Farmworkers." Dr. Keeney's project examined COVID-19 related stressors and barriers to vaccination and testing among the commuting and residential farmworker populations in Imperial County, California. Dr. Keeney's presentation was followed by an update on Montana State University's currently active WRASAP farmworker baseline survey.

California AgrAbility staff attended the 2022 Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health in Portland, Oregon, as part of the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program Network. The forum brought together health professionals from various organizations throughout the West including migrant centers and community health centers, to educate, network, and share information and resources.



California AgrAbility staff joined representatives from local organizations and agencies at April's monthly RISE meeting. RISE, Inc. is a non-profit public benefit organization that provides social services to rural communities in Yolo County to enhance the quality of life. The meeting offered attendees the opportunity to network over coffee and tamales and further connect during an icebreaker activity where attendees learned more about other organizations. Attendees shared updates on upcoming projects and their organization's resources.

Submitted by California AgrAbility Project

May 2022

Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility and the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network are partnering to address farmer stress. One of the pilot projects is called "Meet at the Shed," and it is a unique way of bringing people together to improve mental health through building a sense of community and belonging. It is based on the Men's Shed initiative that has chapters worldwide. Meet at The Shed is a maker space where people can come together to work on woodworking, metal working, mechanical projects and more. Research has shown Men's Shed's participants reported decreased social isolation, improved mental and physical health, and improved overall quality of life. On April 5th, staff hosted a kickoff informational session and had 46 people in attendance.



An agricultural student group from the United Kingdom came to the University of Georgia Tifton Campus and requested to hear about AgrAbility. Staff showcased their Mobile Learning Lab for the students to help them learn more about AgrAbility services and assistive technology. The students were inquisitive and enjoyed getting to try out the assistive technology.

AgrAbility staff have been working on converting an enclosed trailer to a mobile cooling unit for a client. The client sells produce and vegetables directly to consumers at local farmers markets. The client has to lift heavy coolers into the truck bed every time they sell at the market. Converting the trailer to a mobile cooling unit will eliminate the need for the client to pick up heavy coolers. The produce and mushrooms will go into the cooling unit directly after harvest and can be unloaded easily at the market when a consumer purchases. Read more about it and view a [video of the work here](#).

Submitted by AgrAbility in Georgia

May 2022

Indiana

Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, represented Indiana AgrAbility at the March 19 Indiana Black Loam Conference in Bloomington, Indiana. Ed presented about AgrAbility's services to underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, distributed AgrAbility resources, and visited with conference participants as they browsed the exhibit area.



A series of four Indiana Black Loam Conference programs have been held throughout Indiana in 2022: Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, and Bloomington. A fifth program will be held in Indianapolis in May. These workshops are specifically targeted toward BIPOC (Black and indigenous people of color) and socially disadvantaged farmers, with most participants being from urban areas. The programs are hosted by the Legacy Farming and Health Group, based in Lyles Station, Indiana, and the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, a collaboration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Purdue University.

The Indiana Black Loam Conferences have been a great opportunity to share AgrAbility's services with underserved audiences who typically would not participate in programs targeted to "traditional" agricultural producers. AgrAbility has been involved with all four workshops and will be present at the upcoming Indianapolis program.

Submitted by Ed Sheldon

May 2022

Maine

During April, several sessions were offered to engage new audiences and share program resources. "Gardening & Ergonomics by Maine AgrAbility" was presented three times to more than 40 people across southern and central Maine. AgrAbility resources were also featured as part of the Franklin County Executive Committee Annual Meeting via Zoom. Project Coordinator Lani Carlson has been working with the Maine Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network (MeFRSAN) to assist production agriculture workers in Maine, with a focus on developing small grant opportunities for farmers.

Brie Weisman gave a virtual presentation titled "Managing Pain on the Farm" as part of the Saginaw Valley State University SOTA conference. This session was also presented at the NTW, and staff encourage other SRAPs to use [this Pain Tool](#) with their clients and provide feedback on its use.



Be sure to check out the newest articles and information shared on the Maine AgrAbility website.

- [Loggers and Rotator Cuff Injury](#)
- [Fishing with a Spinal Cord Injury](#)
- [Bulletin #2026 Establishing and Using a Support Network for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- New Yoga for fishermen video clips: [Downward DogFISH](#) and [The Cat Pose](#)



Submitted by Lani Carlson

May 2022

Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility, through its collaborative efforts with the Missouri State Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Stress grant initiative, disseminated its behavioral health/mental health tool kit to farm families, agricultural groups, stakeholders, and others. The behavioral health/mental health resources can be accessed on Missouri AgrAbility's "Show-Me Strong Farm Families" Facebook page by clicking [here](#), Missouri AgrAbility's website [here](#), or by downloading the full Mental Health Awareness Month Promotional Toolkit [here](#).

To address the needs of its customers, Missouri AgrAbility continues to build service capacity across the state through education and networking. As such, Missouri AgrAbility and its collaborative partners facilitated the following:

1. Provided four farmstead assessments to client farmers with disabilities who are engaged in farming or want to become involved in a farming-related occupation.
2. Used marketing to direct the public to initiatives in AgrAbility-related education, networking, and assistance.
3. Facilitated three education-based programs within the context of production agriculture:
 - safe selection and placement of assistive technologies,
 - SMART technologies,
 - adapted devices,
 - climate-smart agriculture with the selection, adoption and placement of innovative technologies, and
 - how to use ergonomic principles to teach participants how to work smarter and not harder and,
 - how to avoid secondary injuries for farmers with disabilities.

Submitted by Karen Funkenbusch

Missouri AgrAbility marketing is being incorporated into upcoming Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) one-day regional outdoor camps. The local committees are including marigold planting as an activity at each of the four events for survivors to be aware of Missouri AgrAbility as a resource. These BIA-MO camps are being held in Columbia, Liberty, Springfield, and St. Louis in June 2022.

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

May 2022

Nebraska



The Nebraska AgrAbility team presented an all-day CEU workshop for 23 OTs, PTs, OTAs, PTAs, and students, to educate them about AgrAbility and how healthcare workers might consider the culture and work of farmers/ranchers as patients. The workshop was offered in-person or online, with a visit to a nearby client's farm both in-person and streamed.

AgrAbility was the topic of a Lincoln middle school student's "Make a Difference" fair presentation. Callia was inspired to present on the hazards of agricultural occupations and the benefits of rural rehabilitation by her grandfather, who is a recipient of AgrAbility services. In addition to information shared, she sported an AgrAbility t-shirt for advertising and raised \$100 in donations from her peers/family. A full-page article describing his injury and AgrAbility experience was also published in his hometown newspaper.



Submitted by Susan Harris

May 2022

North Carolina

This year, the Union County 2022 Embracing Transition Fair was featured on Thursday, April 28. Hundreds of students with special needs attended the event. Students in the transition to adulthood and occupational course of study programs made presentations about their job responsibilities from their worksite. This event focused on giving students the opportunity to showcase their work through a display board and a forum to talk about their experiences. NC AgrAbility and other vendors were present to provide support options for parents as their children transition into the workforce.



On April 30 NC AgrAbility Partnership participated as an exhibitor at the 2022 Iredell Garden Fair among 40+ exhibitors and almost 800 attendees. The event was a place to fellowship and learn, and an opportunity to acquire gardening materials for the upcoming planting seasons. NC AgrAbility had the chance to teach about safety on the farm and in the garden and to demonstrate ergonomic tools. Fifty-four attendees signed up for the NC AgrAbility listserv.



Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

May 2022

Pennsylvania

April began with Outreach Coordinator Kendra Martin attending a conference hosted by PA Veteran Farming Network. This annual event drew more than 100 Veterans from across the state. Several organizations shared resources and information to support veterans who are now farming. View the 2022 Conference Toolkit by clicking [HERE](#).



Case Coordinator and Project Assistant Abbie Spackman provided a training session to the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) FARM Coordinator staff; 25 coordinators from across the state. The training focused on working with AgrAbility to provide high-level services to farmers, assistive technology options, and how to select accurate, safe, and effective assistive technology. The training also included proper practices for visiting a farm, including preparations, biosecurity considerations, and what to expect during a farm assessment.

AgrAbility PA participated in the PA Farm Link board meeting hosted at Rodale Institute. Great networking opportunity with a partner organization and many agricultural support organizations from across the state - all with the focus of supporting farmers and farm families.

Project Manager Linda Fetzer co-presented the Communicating with Farmers under Stress workshop for ag service providers in the northwest part of the state. There were six workshops across the state, and they were funded by the PA Department of Agriculture's USDA-NIFA state FR SAN grant and were a partnership with the Center for Dairy Excellence in Pennsylvania.



Project Director Suzanna Windon continued her academic research, presentations, and outreach on the topics of leadership, stress, and agriculture at a dozen or more professional stateside and international conferences. Suzanna has also served as a panelist or speaker on the topic of conflict and agriculture in Ukraine. Suzanna is a native Ukrainian and is director of the Ukrainian Ag and Rural Development Program for Penn State University. See Suzanna introduced at the 54-minute mark of a video [HERE](#).

Submitted by Kendra Martin

May 2022

Tennessee

Central TN New Farmer Academy (NFA) Instructor and TN AgrAbility TSU PI Finis Stribling and John Ferrell, TSU ANR Extension agent, demonstrated two pieces of equipment - a tractor and a Rain-Flo 2400 Plastic Mulch Layer to students at the April NFA. Finis also spoke to the class about the TN AgrAbility Project and how it serves those in agriculture with physical challenges.



Emergency Management Association Training Conference invited TN AgrAbility, TN Farm Bureau, and TN Association of Rescue Squads to set up a TN Grain Bin Safety & Rescue Awareness Training display. TNAP and Farm Bureau staff spoke to several rescue personnel about the training, rescue equipment, AgrAbility, and farmer veterans.

"Reach for your dreams" is Sydney's message for Tennesseans with autism. TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) highlighted autism during April by sharing stories of Tennesseans with autism. There's no place Sydney feels more like himself than when he's on his farm. TN AgrAbility, UT MANAGE, Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation, and Tennessee Department of Human Services are partnering together to find the right fit for Sydney to make a living doing what he loves. Visit the [TN AgrAbility Facebook](#) page to hear Sydney's story.



A friend of a friend of a friend is how a Gibson County farmer and the love from his family and friends was able to have a lift built for his tractor. "All I want is for my dad to be able to continue farming for as long as he can." said his son Travis when he called TNAP. TN AgrAbility staff had heard from a different Gibson County farmer that another Gibson County farmer had built his dad a lift for their tractor. TNAP contacted all involved, and Triple L Farms and some friends were able to design a lift to fit his Case tractor from the designs for a John Deere.

Assistive Technology Awareness Day (April 6) was promoted by The Star Center, TN AgrAbility's nonprofit partner, and was used to introduce their assistive technology specialists across the state. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution to shed important light on assistive technology and celebrate National Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness Day. The day honored people with disabilities who require AT to access their education, workplace, community, and recreational activities. The day also recognized the innovation of researchers and the complete dedication of AT specialists and program providers who operate AT programs across the US and US territories so that millions of individuals can acquire low-cost and often no-cost AT. Every day TN AgrAbility celebrates AT!

The 2022 UT Organic Farming and Gardening Field Day was a great day of outreach and education for TN AgrAbility. TN AgrAbility joined with Frontline Gardens at an exhibit booth with creative ways to show "Everywhere You Look UT" and TN AgrAbility. Thank you, UT President Boyd, for talking about TN AgrAbility's services at the

luncheon speech and for visiting with TN AgrAbility and Frontline Gardens to learn more about their programs!



SAVE THE DATE: The [LIFE Project/AgrAbility/TSU 1890s Workshop](#) is to be held at Tennessee State University's downtown Nashville campus June 7-8, 2022. Note: There are 20 rooms available the night of June 7th at the discounted rate of \$139.65/night including taxes. The LIFE Project team will be sponsoring the first 10 rooms booked on a first booked/first served basis for the first 10 farmers or veterans traveling 50 miles or further away from TSU (Nashville). If additional assistance is needed for farmers or veterans with disabilities, contact Tameka Peoples via email at InspiredSolutions@peoples-foundation.org or by phone (916)402-5257.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

May 2022

Wisconsin

Wisconsin AgrAbility staff, along with their partners at Easterseals Wisconsin and the UW- Marshfield Ag Research station, hosted the Wisconsin Vocational Rehabilitation counselors for a "day in the life" on-farm training in late April. Staff had over 35 counselors join them for a day of hands-on training, learning how cows are milked, calves are moved and fed, using a cattle chute, getting in and out of skid steers, and driving tractors. Staff also partnered with Life Lyfts by Life Essentials showing how a lift can be used in many different ways.

Staff hosted their annual AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit in Cashton, WI, at the Organic Valley Headquarters. There were four different presentations: from local FSA, WI Farm Center, WI Farmer Veteran Coalition, and UMASH. All attendees enjoyed each session and the location.

Submitted by Amanda Harguth

May 2022

AgrAbility for Africa



The AgrAbility for Africa staff hosted teams from the Nile Basin region to discuss industrial and agricultural pollutions, and climate change adaptations and their impact to eco-systems, resilience in farming, and overall farming productivity. Also discussed were equity in farming and social, economic, and health concerns in the interest of improving industry

profitability.

Island communities are often forgotten and very hard to reach, but because of the desire and mission of the AgrAbility for Africa staff to bridge services gaps, the team has been busy increasing island visits and extending outreach activities to these farming communities. The goal is to find new clients and to extend support services to these isolated farmers with disabilities. It is a fun but costly undertaking that AgrAbility for Africa intends to continue with the help of multiple collaborations and partnerships in order to increase equity in agriculture.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

May 2022

Upcoming Events

- Name** QPR for Farmers and Farm Families
Dates May 19 and May 26, 2022
City, State Online event
Contact Info/Web link https://www.agrisafe.org/courses/qpr_sda/
- Name** LIFE Project / AgrAbility / TSU 1890s Workshop
Dates June 7-8, 2022
City, State Nashville, Tennessee
Contact Info/Web link Tameka Peoples: InspiredSolutions@peoples-foundation.org
(916) 402-5257
- Name** 2022 World Pork Expo
Dates June 8-10, 2022
City, State Des Moines, Iowa
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.worldpork.org/>
- Name** AgrAbility Regional Training Workshop - Ohio
Dates June 28-30, 2022
City, State Columbus, Ohio
Contact Info/Web link <http://www.agrability.org/trainings/>
- Name** North American Manure Expo
Dates July 13-14, 2022
City, State Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.manureexpo.ca/>
- Name** AgrileadHER™ Women's Agriculture Conference
Dates August 17-18, 2022
City, State Virtual Conference
Contact Info/Web link www.agrileadHER.com

link

Name 2022 international workshop on agritourism

Dates August 30 - September 1, 2022

City, State Burlington, Vermont

Contact <https://tinyurl.com/4a5v6n24>

Info/Web
link

Name 2022 Angus Convention

Dates November 4-7, 2022

City, State Salt Lake City, Utah

Contact <https://angusconvention.com/>

Info/Web
link