

AgrAbility e·Note

August 2022

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News



The calls for presentations and posters for the 2023 NTW, with due dates of November 1, have been sent out to everyone on the staff listserv and have started going out to other contacts. NAP staff are also posting other NTW information on www.agrability.org. [More](#)

AgrAbility/North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center webinar: "Convivencia y conversación: Tools for reducing stress and fostering emotional well-being among Latino farmworkers," Monday, August 29, 3:00 p.m. [More](#)

The AgrAbility Virtual State Fair returns in October! This annual social media event features a different SRAP each day and has proven to be a successful method of public awareness to a mass audience. Look for upcoming details.



Join us in Reno at the Silver Legacy Resort November 29th - December 1st for a regional workshop. Sessions will be focused on worksite assessment, AT, mental health and wellness, and small group discussions. There will also be tours of some local Nevada agriculture. More information and registration should be coming later this month.

For any questions or if interested in hosting a regional workshop, contact Tess McKeel at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or 585-447-9015.

Osteoarthritis Action Alliance (OAAA), managed through the Thurston Arthritis Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will again be a partner on the National AgrAbility Project for this grant year. Read more about that organization and how they can help agricultural workers with arthritis. [More](#)



Join OAAA for the August monthly Zoom discussion "Understanding Osteoarthritis & Agriculture Resources," Thursday, August 25 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Email details coming soon.

Toolbox Spotlight



A [Skid-Steer Vinyl Cab Enclosure](#) is designed to protect from harsh working environment and the elements (e.g., cold, snow, wind, dust), which is especially important for persons with low energy, body temperature management issues, and/or arthritis. Features of this after-market product include: full 360-degree visibility, all-weather safety door, push-out rear window, reportedly simple attach/detach, and heavy-duty material used.

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

California

California AgrAbility staff conducted outreach to migrant workers in the California Delta near the Sacramento River. Every year during July, workers migrate to the area for pear harvesting. [More](#)

California AgrAbility staff joined the RISE Collaborative Meeting as it returned to its in-person gatherings. Staff joined the meeting to promote a series of upcoming gardening and wellbeing community events in Yolo County. [More](#)



The California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Davis California AgrAbility, CSU Fresno, and the CalHOPE campaign are teamed up to offer the second of three virtual sessions on "Farmer and Farmworker Mental Health and Stress." [More](#)

Colorado

The Colorado AgrAbility Project was recently awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) aimed at supporting the psychosocial wellbeing of Colorado's agricultural workers. [More](#)

Mr. Harvey Cundiff is a 79-year-old rancher who lives with his wife Linda in Bayview, Colorado. Mr. Cundiff, a lifelong rancher in the area, has been experiencing the effects of aging more noticeably over the past few years. Harvey is one of 11 individuals who have been or will be the recipient of funds from this CDA grant to the AgrAbility Project with emphasis on behavioral health. [More](#)



Indiana



Over the next three years, Indiana AgrAbility will be partnering with The Nature Conservancy in its efforts to protect wetland habitats in the Lower Wabash River Basin (southwest Indiana and southeast Illinois) and conduct outreach to historically underserved communities in Indiana. [More](#)

Indiana AgrAbility is requesting that farmer veterans take a food safety survey developed by researchers at Purdue University. Answers will

help develop on-farm food safety educational materials specially catered to help farmers. [More](#)

Kansas

Security and monitoring systems are ever changing. They have become very versatile, thus allowing an agricultural worker to be very creative in how they access it. Kansas AgrAbility staff Cassie Ramon and Karin Rasmussen presented "Taking Care of all Generations on the Farm" for the National AgrAbility Encore Webinar on July 7th. [More](#)

Maine

Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels continued with its monthly in-person workshops. In July, the group met at Rustic Roots Farm in Farmington to learn about the best tools for successful small-scale farming. These farm tours are also open to new Maine farmers participating in the Maine New Farmers project supported by the USDA.



July's FishAbility blog post "[Let's Do the Twist](#)" focused on dynamic stretching to help Maine's fishermen prevent injury and manage aches and pains.



The *Logger's Voice*, summer 2022 issue, featured an article by Maine AgrAbility staff, "Reducing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Logging Industry" that emphasizes reasonable precautions to avoid and eliminate potential hazards. [More](#)

Finally, staff provided AgrAbility awareness and outreach at the [2022 Carlisle Academy Integrative Equine Therapy & Sports Immersion Program](#) that provides learning experiences for OT graduate students, practitioners, educators, and coaches.

Missouri

[Missouri AgrAbility](#) focused its social media efforts on providing information about staying safe in hot weather and promoting events its client farmers would be interested in, such as urban agriculture, [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch and Brianna Wittenborn from MU Extension were busy this month creating new print resources related to AgrAbility, rural disability, agricultural safety, behavioral health, chronic disease, [More](#)

Brianna Wittenborn, Karen Funkenbusch, and Tevin Uthlaut from MU Extension updated the "Show-Me Farm Safety" partnership video clips to include closed captioning for rural and urban agricultural ATV safety, [More](#)

Karen Funkenbusch and Brenda Schreck from MU Extension shared "Ergonomic Tool Talk" with urban veteran farmers at the [Veterans Urban Farm - Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture](#).

[Lincoln University ISFOP](#) team members attended the Small Business Association and USDA outreach training on July 21st "The Business of Farming and Ranching for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers".

Missouri AgrAbility paraprofessional staff member Brianna Wittenborn created a new brochure featuring Missouri AgrAbility clients and services available through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO). [More](#)

Nebraska

Aaron Yoder attended the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Annual International Meeting in Houston, Texas, from July 17-20. [More](#)

Leah Schmidt is the Nebraska AgrAbility summer intern. Leah has been developing and sharing social media messaging and promoting AgrAbility on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nebraskaagrability>. [More](#)

The Nebraska AgrAbility team recently met in-person to plan and coordinate efforts ahead of a very busy time of year for programming and events. [More](#)

New Mexico

Julianne LaJeunesse, AT specialist with the New Mexico Assistive Technology Program, offered a public awareness event about NM AgrAbility at the North Valley Farmer's Market on July 13. She trained occupational therapy fieldwork II students at the event.

Sonja Koukel, project director, presented an introduction to the NM AgrAbility Project to 50 students attending the six-week U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium held in Clovis, NM. [More](#)



All three UNM occupational therapy graduate students (Robin Gibbs, Celia Giallanella and Barrett Harding) have been accepted as speakers to the 2022 New Mexico Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, where they will speak about case reports with the NM AgrAbility, Mandy's Farm, and University of New Mexico collaboration.

Two journal articles have been published with different collaborators from NM AgrAbility as authors: non-profit team member Jessie Calero and graduated occupational therapy fieldwork student Sandia Wood. [More](#)

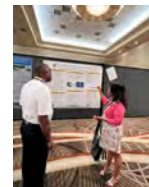
North Carolina



The NC AgrAbility team has been learning and working in video creation. They are recording personal presentations and demo tool videos.

On July 25, NC AgrAbility participated at the Legacy Acres event "Cool Beans," teaching the farming families about safety on the farm and preventing injuries while doing farm tasks. Ten participants attended the session and received educational materials.

NCA&T and NC AgrAbility participated this year at the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators AEA Conference in Orlando, FL, from July 31st to August 4th. NC AgrAbility presented a poster titled: "Overcome Challenges and Continue Farming." Twenty-seven attendees received the poster presentation.



Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff are keeping busy during this very hot summer. Rural Rehabilitation Coordinators Rachel Jarman and Randy Joseph are visiting farms, writing assessments, demonstrating Assistive Technology for the farmers, and collaborating with vendors and Ohio's vocational rehabilitation agency to keep Ohio farmers farming.

Tennessee



The annual LIFE Project/AgrAbility 1890 Land-grant Institution Workshop was held at Tennessee State University's downtown Nashville campus June 7-8. The conference set a new attendance record with 67 participants. [More](#)

TN farmer veteran consultant Charley Jordan shared his story of how he migrates farm stress on his farm operation. Charley stated: "I never realized that going from Army Special Operations to bouquets was the journey I would take. [More](#)



TN AgrAbility and the STAR Center connected with the UT Extension family and consumer science agents/specialists across the state to share how TN AgrAbility and FCS can benefit each program. FCS CONNECT is a webinar series connecting community and health agencies/programs across the state.



Happy Birthday America - TNAP staff celebrated Independence Day with their families and are thankful for those who are serving or have served to give Americans their freedom!

TNAP promoted the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on social media. [More](#)

TNAP promoted #988 on July 16th. #988 is a universal entry point so that no matter where people live in the U.S., they can easily access, 24/7, emotional support or assistance.... [More](#)

TNAP, TN Association of Rescue Squads, and KY Department of Ag came together for PTO and grain bin safety demonstrations at the 32nd Milan No Till Production Crop Field Day. [More](#)



The STAR Center staff roped attendees at the Milan No Till Field Day to show off their muscles using a hand dynamometer. Fifty-seven plus attended the TN Farmer Veteran Picnic in conjunction with the 32nd Milan No Till Crop Production Field Day. [More](#)

East TN hosted its first TN grain bin safety/rescue awareness training for ag producers and rescue personnel with 39 in attendance. TN AgrAbility, UT/TSU Extension, and AgCentral Co-op coordinated the event, while TN Association of Rescue Squads (TARS) provided the instruction. [More](#)



TN AgrAbility, Star Center's Olivia Russi, assistive technology specialist, and Finis Stribling, TSU TN AgrAbility PI & TSU director over New Farmer Academy, addressed the Tennessee State University OT students about the world of agriculture and assistive technology.

TNAP has partnered with KY Raising Hope to demonstrate how one can start the conversation about mental health. Dale Dobson, KY Department of Agriculture, demonstrated the power of handshake, building trust with farmers, [More](#)



Powerful stories were shared and are now available online of the "Farmer Panel of Lived Experiences". Thanks to the Kimbroughs of Growin' on Faith Farm, Texas' Battleground to Breaking Ground, and Dale Dobson, safety administrator of KY Department of Agriculture. Session recordings can be listened to starting at 48 minutes on Day 1 [HERE](#).

Texas



BattleGround to Breaking Ground held its first Agriculture Business Bootcamp. Participants spent five days visiting local farms/ranches, learning about business planning basics, learning about farm and equipment safety, and visiting with a variety of agriculture agencies and programs including Texas AgrAbility.

Participants in the new Mentor Training Program (MTP), a new portion of the BattleGround to Breaking Ground program, attended training and were certified in CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed. The program hopes these trainings will equip mentors with the tools they need should an emergency arise on their farm/ranch.



Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff was excited to meet and explain AgrAbility to over 475 FFA students during their Chapter Officer Leadership Trainings. The trainings were held in Cedar City on July 7, Orem on July 12, and Morgan on July 14.

On July 6th and 19th, AgrAbility of Utah staff met with the staff at RRCI to teach them about AgrAbility. RRCI is an Independent Living Center that covers nine counties in the southern part of Utah.

On June 27, AgrAbility of Utah was able to present to 25 members of the Cache Interagency Council. The mission of the Cache Interagency Council is to unite non-profits and community service organizations in sharing ideas, upcoming events, and ongoing services, thus producing a spirit of unity and cooperation among the participating organizations.

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia is currently working with 15 farmer clients at various levels of engagement and need. This includes a farmer with traumatic brain injury navigating farm succession.

Staff also exhibited at the Virginia Dairy Expo in Dayton, VA, on July 8th.



AgrAbility Virginia staff partnered with DARS and the non-profit Live, Work, Eat, Grow to host a "Feeling Good in the Garden" workshop that highlighted ergonomics and assistive technology to make gardening more accessible. Twelve attended the session. Staff plans to offer similar workshops with local partners in other areas of the state.

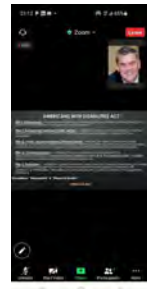
AgrAbility Virginia plans to present and exhibit at the Next Generation Sustainable Technologies for Small Scale Producers National Conference in September, hosted by North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC.

Staff have scheduled a Virginia Cooperative Extension in-service training on AgrAbility for Extension agents and specialists on October 18.

AgrAbility for Africa

Many obstacles remain across Africa to achieve equality, inclusion, and justice for everyone faced with disability, and although legislation exists for the purpose, it is seldom enforced, and many laws are obsolete today. [More](#)

About 90% of farming across Africa is rain fed, and climate change is happening. Lack of understanding of the changes in weather patterns by many farmers inevitably attracts a lot of theories and superstitions. [More](#)



StaffChanges and Recognition

Maine

Our North Star, fearless leader, and beloved colleague, Lani Carlson, has taken a position as the assistive technology specialist for Maine CITE. She has been a stalwart fixture of Maine AgrAbility for the past 10 years and created a nationally recognized and admired program. We miss her terribly, but are comforted in knowing that she is only a phone call away. We know this because we've already called her several times. She probably regrets giving us her new phone number. Thank you for everything, Lani!

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia Community Outreach Specialist Liza Dobson left their position at the end of May to focus full-time on their growing flower farm in Meadows of Dan, Virginia. This position has been filled by Leslie Lawrence with Easterseals UCP.

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Best Practices for Farming with Arthritis](#) - See July 8, 2022, broadcast (Kansas AgrAbility Project)
- [One Fort Campbell veteran is on a mission to share the healing powers of flowers](#) (Tennessee AgrAbility Project)
- ['Long way to go': Leader of Wisconsin program wants to help more farmers with disabilities](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [MSU receives \\$225,000 for farm stress management program](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [Removing barriers: AgrAbility marks 30 years of impact](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Kansas AgrAbility Project, Tennessee AgrAbility Project)
- [Estate Planning for Young Farmers](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [Highlighting NIFA's Efforts on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (AgrAbility)
- [Tennessee Farmer-Veteran Picnic to be Held at the 2022 Milan No-Till Field Day July 28th](#) (Tennessee AgrAbility Project)

- [Grain storage hazards the focus of Ag Progress Days farm safety demos](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)
 - [CSU Extension is expanding access to mental health care in rural Colorado](#) (Colorado AgrAbility Project)
 - [Farming Safety | WPSU's Health Minute](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)
-

OtherNews

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

- Please participate in the veteran farmer food safety webinar Series starting in September and going through December, hosted by researchers at Purdue University. The webinars will cover a variety of topics such as, safe agriculture water use and home vendor safety. Check out this website for the most updated webinar schedule: <https://extension.purdue.edu/food-safety-for-military-veteran-farmers/>
 - A three-day webinar series from USDA, "Sustainable Livelihoods and Behavioral Health: Strategies to Address Farm Stress and Suicide", with links to helpful resources and the event recordings are [HERE](#).
 - [USDA Invests More Than \\$14M to Support Agricultural Workforce Training for Historically Underserved Communities to Bolster U.S. Meat and Poultry Sector Resilience](#)
 - [Aging Farmers Are at Greater Risk of Suicide, Study Finds](#)
 - [PEOPLE MATTER, WORDS MATTER](#)
 - [Community gardens are the highest and best use of land in the city](#)
 - [Bridging the Generation Gap in Workplace Safety Culture](#)
 - [Baling Water: These Young Farmers Built a DIY Swimming Pool With Hay Bales to Beat the Heatwave](#)
 - AgriSafe "Talking Total Farmer Health" podcast [Youth Safety on the Farm](#) (see Episode 9)
-

UpcomingEvents

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

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

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August 2022

National AgrAbility Project



2023 NTW Call for Presentations and Posters - Staff are starting to post some information on the NAP website for the 2023 AgrAbility NTW. The "Call for Presentations and Posters" has been sent out to everyone on the staff listserv and has started going out to other contacts. One can access the Google forms for the [Call for Presentations here](#) and the [Call for Posters here](#).

Staff are also starting to send out the "Exhibitor/Sponsor Form". [One can access that form here](#). Please feel free to share these links with anyone interested. If a Word version is needed to share, please contact Tess. Discussions concerning the potential keynote speaker are under way and staff hope to have that decision made during this month's meeting. The planning committee is currently meeting by Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1pm. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee, let Tess know, and she will add them to the list and send them the Zoom link.

Tess McKeel - tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org -585.447.9015
or JoBeth Rath - jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.402.2059

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

August 2022

California

California AgrAbility staff conducted outreach to migrant workers in the California Delta near the Sacramento River. Every year during July, workers migrate to the area for pear harvesting. Staff spoke with workers about common disabling injuries that occur in the orchards, chronic illnesses, such as arthritis, and how AgrAbility supports some of the workers from these sites. Staff also administered the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program baseline worker survey. Other agencies conducting outreach with California AgrAbility included Migrant Education and the Mexican Consulate.



California AgrAbility staff joined the RISE Collaborative Meeting as it returned to its in-person gatherings. Staff joined the meeting to promote a series of upcoming gardening and wellbeing community events in Yolo County. During the roundtable, staff shared about AgrAbility services and Device Lending Library. During the ice-breaker activities, staff met representatives from the International Rescue Committee, an organization that recently hired an outreach worker for agricultural populations to educate on labor trafficking in the ag business. Another organization present was Turning Point, a mental health facility that also provides case management services for patients and their families.



The California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Davis California AgrAbility, CSU Fresno, and the CalHOPE campaign are teamed up to offer the second of three virtual sessions on "Farmer and Farmworker Mental Health and Stress." In an effort to address the rising rate of suicide, California AgrAbility staff presented QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training to provide attendees the tools to recognize the warning signs of suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to lifesaving services. During the training, program staff provided insight to the unique challenges farmers, farmworkers, and ranchers experience, and walked participants through the steps of implementing QPR training.

Submitted by Angelina Padilla

August 2022

Colorado

The Colorado AgrAbility Project was recently awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) aimed at supporting the psychosocial wellbeing of Colorado's agricultural workers. The grant focus is on community-based efforts to manage the increasing stresses on farmers and ranchers, using trusted partners to carry out the work. The goal of this rapid response funding will be to provide critical equipment and adaptations in a shorter-than-usual time frame to offer clients more autonomy and support to continue their agricultural livelihoods. AgrAbility will help by assessing, recommending, and assisting in securing AT using CDA funds.

Mr. Harvey Cundiff is a 79-year-old rancher who lives with his wife Linda in Bayview, Colorado. Mr. Cundiff, a lifelong rancher in the area, has been experiencing the effects of aging more noticeably over the past few years. Harvey is one of 11 individuals who have been or will be the recipient of funds from this CDA grant to the AgrAbility Project with emphasis on behavioral health.



The passage of time and repetitive farm related injury have begun to take their toll on Mr. Cundiff. Recently, he has undergone hip replacement surgery and that, along with already arthritic knees, causes poor balance and loss of stamina on farm terrain. Harvey has struggled with dyspnea over time and has a chronic oxygen saturation of only 84%- 85%. He cannot walk his terrain and perform many tasks, such as farmstead inspection, repairs, and livestock feeding. These physical stressors also adversely affected his mental health, resulting in growing depression and despair.

He has engaged in all types of farm and ranch work during his lifetime, but for the last few years has scaled back due to the shortness of breath and lack of stable ambulation on farm terrain. Colorado AgrAbility conducted a farm/ranch assessment for Mr. Cundiff and noted that to improve his production, increase his stamina, enhance work endurance, and improve his state of wellbeing, the purchase of a portable oxygen concentrator was necessary. The home-based concentrator was unable to maintain Harvey's blood oxygen concentration above 90%, the value that his pulmonologist recommended. This level is required so that he can continue to perform farmstead inspections, fence repairs, and ambulation over his terrain. This assistive technology tool is able to correctly address the limitations he deals with and reduce the stress he feels with his farming responsibilities.

The costs of such purchases would be a hardship for this family with the numerous medical expenses they have recently incurred, and it is not otherwise covered by insurance. Utilizing a grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, he was able to acquire a portable backpack unit, with a weight of about 6 pounds, that provides 2-5 LPM flow of oxygen. Harvey now says: "Thank You! I haven't had the concentrator very long, but it has shown me how much better life can be. I wore it last Saturday to Pagosa Springs to purchase farm products and never got sleepy on the road. That is a first for quite a long time. I am excited to have it for my ranch work fencing, irrigating, and putting up hay. Before having it, when coming back to the house for lunch, my oxygen had dropped to 84%. Thank you, Jim Craig, Colorado AgrAbility, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, for giving my life back."

August 2022

Indiana



Over the next three years, Indiana AgrAbility will be partnering with The Nature Conservancy in its efforts to protect wetland habitats in the Lower Wabash River Basin (southwest Indiana and southeast Illinois) and conduct outreach to historically underserved communities in Indiana. AgrAbility will include presentations about the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and other NRCS conservation programs at a minimum of six AgrAbility and Farmer Veteran Coalition workshops throughout the state targeting veterans in agriculture. In addition, at least two workshops targeting socially disadvantaged audiences will include ACEP and other NRCS program education. These programs will be held in partnership with the Legacy Innovation Farming Economics (LIFE) project, based in Lyles Station, Indiana, a longtime cooperator in AgrAbility's outreach efforts to historically underserved audiences. The Nature Conservancy partnership will be featured annually in Indiana AgrAbility's newsletter, which is distributed to clients, cooperators, and Purdue Extension field staff.

Submitted by Ed Sheldon

Indiana AgrAbility is requesting that farmer veterans take a food safety survey developed by researchers at Purdue University. Answers will help develop on-farm food safety educational materials specially catered to help farmers. As a token of gratitude, all survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$75 e-gift card with an estimated 1/10 chance of winning. Please take the survey here: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjiBiZR8zqAKrQ

Submitted by Joe Ricker

August 2022

Kansas

Security and monitoring systems are ever changing. They have become very versatile, thus allowing an agricultural worker to be very creative in how they access it. Kansas AgrAbility staff Cassie Ramon and Karin Rasmussen presented "Taking Care of all Generations on the Farm" for the National AgrAbility Encore Webinar on July 7th. The webinar discussed how cameras can be used in a home to monitor a loved one and then how similar cameras can be used to monitor livestock, giving the farmer/rancher an avenue to attend to his responsibilities and still be able to oversee his investment and activities on the farm by just viewing an app on his/her smartphone. In addition to cameras, uses for smart door locks, sensors, plugs, and light bulbs were also discussed. Technology changes daily and smart devices come with various options. Therefore, it is important to determine what is needed in an operation to determine the best match or select the correct smart device.

Submitted by Karin Rasmussen.

August 2022

Maine



The Logger's Voice Summer 2022 featured an article by Maine AgrAbility staff: [Reducing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Logging Industry](#) that emphasizes reasonable precautions to avoid and eliminate potential hazards. This is part one of a two-part series on the topic. Additionally, staff worked with student loggers to develop a better understanding of ergonomics and its effect on long-term health during one day of the 2022 Mechanized Logging Operations Course's 12-week training course.

Submitted by Anne Martin

August 2022

Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on providing information about staying safe in hot weather and promoting events its client farmers would be interested in, such as urban agriculture, Tai-Chi, accessible beekeeping, regenerative agriculture, and prevention of secondary injuries. Make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility, @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Karen Funkenbusch and Brianna Wittenborn from MU Extension were busy this month creating new print resources related to AgrAbility, rural disability, agricultural safety, behavioral health, chronic disease, wellness, and prevention of secondary injuries, and updating displays to be exhibited at the "[Show-Me Farm Safety](#)" booth during the 2022 Missouri State Fair, August 11 through August 21, in Sedalia, Missouri. Campus and regional faculty from MU Extension and outworkers at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program (LUCIE ISFOP) will be on hand to pass out print materials and share information about the AgrAbility program in Missouri.

Brianna Wittenborn, Karen Funkenbusch, and Tevin Uthlout from MU Extension updated the "[Show-Me Farm Safety](#)" partnership video clips to include closed captioning for rural and urban agricultural ATV safety, UTV safety, grain bin safety, tractor safety, mental health, accessible beekeeping, share the road, livestock safety, and the rollover protection structure (ROPS) program.

Submitted by: Karen Funkenbusch, Tevin Uthlout, and Brenda Schreck

Missouri AgrAbility paraprofessional staff member Brianna Wittenborn created a new brochure featuring Missouri AgrAbility clients and services available through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO). This new publication was distributed at the Missouri Rural Health Conference on August 10 and at the Missouri State Fair between August 11 and 21.

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

August 2022

Nebraska

Aaron Yoder attended the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Annual International Meeting in Houston, Texas, from July 17-20. He participated in committee meetings and presentations related to agricultural safety and health including sessions related to assistive technology for agricultural workers. On July 19, Aaron attended the session "Safety Modifications and Assistive Technologies for Agricultural Production." For more information on ASABE, visit <https://www.asabe.org/>.

Leah Schmidt is the Nebraska AgrAbility summer intern. Leah has been developing and sharing social media messaging and promoting AgrAbility on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nebraskaagrability>. She has also updated the Nebraska AgrAbility coloring book sheets and is creating educational activities for upcoming shows and events. Staff appreciate Leah's hard work and wish her the best as she heads back to school to continue working towards her doctorate in occupational therapy. Leah says "Throughout my summer with Nebraska AgrAbility, I have learned more about what this amazing program does for injured farmers and ranchers. I have been able to interact with farmers and ranchers while also helping create and work on different projects for them. I have learned so much over the summer and I'm very thankful for this opportunity."

The Nebraska AgrAbility team recently met in-person to plan and coordinate efforts ahead of a very busy time of year for programming and events. Those who could not attend in-person were able to join the meeting virtually. The team also viewed a demonstration of the updated Nebraska Rural Response website at <https://farmhotline.com>. In addition to helpful resources for the rural community, the website features the new universal call or text 9-8-8 to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Submitted by Soni Cochran

August 2022

New Mexico

Sonja Koukel, project director, presented an introduction to the NM AgrAbility Project to 50 students attending the six-week U.S. Dairy Education & Training Consortium held in Clovis, NM. The USDETC is a multi-university organization established to train and educate the next generation of dairy professionals and is attended by students from universities across the country. The consortium's co-founder is Robert Hagevoort, a NM AgrAbility Project team member.



Two journal articles have been published with collaborators from NM AgrAbility: non-profit team member Jessie Calero and graduated occupational therapy fieldwork student Sandia Wood.

1. From current NMAgrAbility non-profit team member Jessie Calero:
 - a. Jepsen, S., Akgerman, L., Funkenbusch, K., Calero, J., & Kelejian, H. (2022). Accessibility and Inclusion as an Approach to Enhancing Local Extension Programs. [Journal of Human Sciences and Extension, 10\(2\), 9.](#)
2. From graduated occupational therapy fieldwork student Sandia Wood:
 - a. Wood, S., & Hill, M. T. (2022). Avian Assisted Intervention During Covid-19 Pandemic Restrictions. [Student Journal of Occupational Therapy, 3\(1\), 25-29.](#)

Submitted by Mary Hill

August 2022

Ohio

Disability Services Coordinator Laura Akgerman recently presented to the Ohio Brain Injury Advisory Board. The members of the Board were very interested in the resources and educational materials OAP has to offer, and offered to make connections between OAP and their clinics, hospitals, and colleagues. One Board member stated that she plans to advocate for Ohio AgrAbility to speak to Bureau of Workers Compensation employees to increase their awareness of the resources OAP has to offer injured farmers.

Submitted by Laura Akgerman

August 2022

Tennessee



The annual LIFE Project/AgrAbility 1890 Land-grant Institution Workshop was held at Tennessee State University's downtown Nashville campus June 7-8. The conference set a new attendance record with 67 participants. It was an exciting workshop that included two different farmer panels - one composed of AgrAbility clients and the other made up of TN

New Farmer Academy graduates - two different hands-on assistive technology sessions from Life Essentials and STAR Center, an aquaponics demonstration, and a variety of sessions that included topics on value-added ag opportunities, disaster preparation and insurance, farm stress, and urban agricultural opportunities. The Tennessee chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, Farm Credit, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) all presented. The conference was a huge success and a huge thank you to the conference host Tennessee State University.



TN farmer veteran consultant Charley Jordan shared his story of how he migrates farm stress on his farm operation. Charley stated: "I never realized that going from Army Special Operations to bouquets was the journey I would take. All it took was a failed try at growing tomatoes and a few failed job interviews to set me on this path. As I dove deeper into the

world of agriculture, I found the perfect fit for a veteran who still had the desire to serve. Only now instead of occupying the left or right front seat of a MH-47G, I create art and smiles through the simple act of creating a flower arrangement. Since I decided to take on my new venture to be a horticulture therapist, I've realized more than ever that agriculture is definitely a fantastic career path for veterans." Hear more of his story [HERE](#).

TNAP promoted the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on social media. It celebrated how it prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. Thank you to the ADA!

TNAP promoted #988 on July 16th. #988 is a universal entry point so that no matter where people live in the U.S., they can easily access, 24/7, emotional support or assistance for someone they know who has a mental crisis. Please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to be connected with a trained, caring counselor.

TNAP, TN Association of Rescue Squads, and KY Department of Ag came together for PTO and grain bin safety demonstrations at the 32nd Milan No Till Production Crop Field Day. The Raising Hope team was available to shake hands and pass along challenge coins showing attendees they have a friend no matter what. Along with demonstrations, everyone who stopped by the tents enjoyed a cup of ice cream and was given a free neck cooling towel.





The STAR Center staff roped attendees at the Milan No Till Field Day to show off their muscles using a hand dynamometer. Fifty-seven plus attended the TN Farmer Veteran Picnic in conjunction with the 32nd Milan No Till Crop Production Field Day. After a delicious steak/tenderloin meal, attendees heard from different organizations that may be able to assist with their farm businesses. The Parkers Crossroads Honor Guard posted the colors and gave the story of the 13 Folds; Kellye Cash, 1987 Miss America, sang the National Anthem, and FFA students from local high schools helped with set-up and tear-down. A special thank you to the sponsors for the meal: TN Pork Producers, Farm Credit Mid-America, Farm Space, and TN Cattlemen's Association. Table decorations were donated by TN farmer veteran Charley Jordan.

East TN hosted its first TN grain bin safety/rescue awareness training for ag producers and rescue personnel with 39 in attendance. TN AgrAbility, UT/TSU Extension, and AgCentral Co-op coordinated the event, while TN Association of Rescue Squads (TARS) provided the instruction. This training was to teach ag producers and rescue personnel their job in case of a grain bin entrapment, to raise awareness about TNAP services, and to promote farm health and safety.



TNAP has partnered with KY Raising Hope to demonstrate how one can start the conversation about mental health. Dale Dobson, KY Department of Agriculture, demonstrated the power of handshake, building trust with farmers, and the Raising Hope challenge coin at the TN Summer Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference and at Milan No Till Crop Production Field Day. He also talked about it on a recent USDA webinar.

Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

August 2022

AgrAbility for Africa

Many obstacles remain across Africa to achieve equality, inclusion, and justice for everyone faced with disability, and although legislation exists for the purpose, it is seldom enforced, and many laws are obsolete today.



The capacity to speak out and write to promote, protect, and defend the rights of people with disability is important in order to reverse a situation that was comparable to the state of affairs in the United States of America before the passing of the American Disability Act (ADA). In order to learn from the experiences, process, and the achievements of the ADA, Mutumba Faisal is currently enrolled in an online training on disability advocacy run by Professor Rob Engel at American University. Mutumba is representing AgrAbility for Africa as a means of empowering the organization in strengthening community awareness and action on inclusion, through policy and direct participation, to ensure that all people with disabilities across Africa have equal opportunity to be economically self-sufficient and to earn and save with appropriate accommodations and support.



About 90% of farming across Africa is rain fed, and climate change is happening. Lack of understanding of the changes in weather patterns by many farmers inevitably attracts a lot of theories and superstitions. During outreach missions, the AgrAbility for Africa staff are increasingly faced with questions and theories about the state of the situation. Because of wide-spread misunderstanding, expanding and sharing knowledge about climate-smart agriculture has become critical to what the organization does in order to enhance agricultural productivity and smallholder incomes while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

To achieve the above, AgrAbility for Africa is actively researching solutions and partners in order to better respond to these challenges and further support implementation of appropriate climate smart agricultural (CSA) practices to help transform agri-food systems towards green and climate-resilient practices when managing landscapes, including cropland, livestock, and fisheries across Africa.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

August 2022

Upcoming Events

Name New Battleground to Breaking Ground Phase 1 Course
Dates Rolling admission
City, State Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/new-phase-1-battleground-to-breaking-ground/01t4x000002ciNKAAY>

Name Phase 2-C12- BattleGround to Breaking Ground (Ag business planning course)
Dates Enrollment closes August 19, 2022
City, State Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/phase-2-c12-battleground-to-breaking-ground/01t4x000004PArTAAG>

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

Name 2022 international workshop on agritourism
Dates August 30 - September 1, 2022
City, State Burlington, Vermont
Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/4a5v6n24>

Name Crashes Involving Agricultural Vehicles in the Southwest Region
Dates September 19, 2022, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET
City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name ATV/UTV Safety for Farm Women
Dates September 19, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online
Contact <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

**Info/Web
link**

Name Putting Time and Distance Between Someone at Risk of Suicide and Lethal Means: An Overview of the CALM Workshop

Dates September 20, 2022, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET

City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name Heat and Wildfire Smoke Exposure Among Agricultural Workers: Examining Exposure Risk and Potential Strategies to Protect Workers

Dates September 20, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET

City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name Farm Science Review

Dates September 20-22, 2022

City, State London, Ohio

Contact Info/Web link <https://fsr.osu.edu/>

Name Protecting and Promoting the Health of Young Agricultural Workers: The Role of Employers and Supervisors

Dates September 21, 2022, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET

City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name Farm Youth Mental Health: What We Know and How to Help

Dates September 21, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET

City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name Roundtable Discussion: Grain Bin Safety

Dates September 22, 2022, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET

City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online

Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name Confined Space: Grain Bin Entry

Dates September 22, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name More than Milk: Strong Bones and Injury Prevention for Aging Women in Ag
Dates September 23, 2022, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET
City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name ¡Basta! Working Together to Prevent Sexual Harassment in the Agricultural Workplace
Dates September 23, 2022, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
City, State AgriSafe Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://tinyurl.com/yc72786x>

Name 2022 Angus Convention
Dates November 4-7, 2022
City, State Salt Lake City, Utah
Contact Info/Web link <https://angusconvention.com/>