

AgrAbility e·Note

October 2022

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News



Join us in Reno at the Silver Legacy Resort November 29th - December 1st. The workshop will be focusing on worksite assessment, AT, the Western Regional Stress Assistance Program, and mental health and wellness, and will include some small group discussions. A tour on December 1st will visit Lattin Farms, Frey Farm and Distillery, and WolfPack Meats. The agenda and registration link are on the [NAP website](#).

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

2023 NTW Updates

- The farmer stipend application for the 2023 NTW is now available on the NTW website under the [Stipends tab](#). The applications are due by December 15th.
- The NAP is still looking for presentation and poster submissions. Interested parties can access the Google forms for the [Call for Presentations here](#) and the [Call for Posters here](#). The last day to submit a presentation/poster proposal is November 15th.
- NAP is also looking for exhibitors and sponsors. Please reach out to businesses and organizations that may want to participate. The exhibitor application form may be accessed [HERE](#). Please feel free to share these links. For a Word version to share, please contact Tess McKeel - tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.447.9015 or JoBeth Rath - jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org - 585.402.2059



Join the next AgrAbility monthly Zoom session Tuesday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Brian Norton of Easterseals Crossroads will lead the discussion on AT Act programs and AT loan libraries. Contact jonesp@purdue.edu for more info.



The 2022 AgrAbility Virtual State Fair is underway! Be sure to visit <https://www.facebook.com/AgrAbilityVSF> and <https://twitter.com/AgrabilityVSF> for daily posts through October 26 featuring AgrAbility initiatives and successes from all around the country.

Steve Swain, assistive technology specialist for the National

Toolbox Spotlight

With the push of a button, farmers with arm, leg, or endurance impairments can ride this winch-driven, all-metal [Skylift Grain Bin Elevator](#) to the bin roof without climbing. It's reportedly compatible with virtually all bin styles (e.g., flat-bottom, hopper-type) and made to fit any bin size. A complete package consists of a 110-volt winch (covered to protect it from the elements), installation components and hardware, safety cage platform, safety grab hooks, and a safety cable with a mechanism so that if the main winch cable breaks, the safety cable takes over to stop the cage.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

Staff from Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) attended the 2022 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Alaska Fall Conference where they networked and connected with physical therapists from across the state, providing information about how AgrAbility can support their patients. [More](#)

Art Nash will provide outreach by teaching about accessible growing areas and strategies to implement universal design. In this course he explores using landscaping, tool modifications, raised beds/growing boxes as well as layout considerations, [More](#)

The AKAgrAbility project is seeking someone to join the Alaskan team and assist with client engagements. See this posting for more information or contact DeShana York at ddyork@alaska.edu or 907-786-6330 with questions or inquiries: <https://careers.alaska.edu/en-us/job/521334/agrability-client-specialist>.

California

California AgrAbility affiliate staff presented "All About California AgrAbility" for the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). [More](#)



Colorado

For several years, the Denver Botanical Gardens Chatfield Farms have offered free hands-on farming classes for veterans at their working farm outside the city. Colorado AgrAbility Project staff Jim Craig was invited to teach a session on ag injury avoidance, safety, and assistive technology. [More](#)

Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility clients Al Anderson and Iteago Felton were featured in the 2022-2023 *Georgia Grown Magazine*. The article showcased the assistive



technology the two farmers use and how working with Georgia AgrAbility helped them to continue farming. The article can be viewed online [HERE](#). Hard copies will be available beginning in October.

Georgia AgrAbility partnered with the Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council to demonstrate the benefits of using a drone in a cattle operation. GA AgrAbility's client has a large cattle farm and plans to use a drone to check on his cows in the pasture. This will help to reduce the strain on his back that comes from riding across the uneven terrain in the UTV.

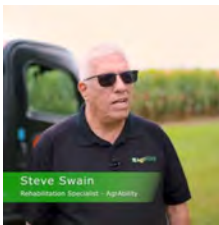


Georgia AgrAbility is offering a tractor safety workshop in Blairsville, GA, on November 4th. The Project has recently had an increase in the number of new farmers with little experience operating a tractor. [More](#)

Staff attended the Georgia Organics September 2022 Farmer Field Day: Work Smart, Work Sharp: Choosing and Maintaining the Right Tools for your Farming Operation. [More](#)

Indiana

Steve Swain, rural rehabilitation specialist for the Indiana AgrAbility Project, presented a "Practical Application of Assistive Technology" to Dr. Brad Duerstock's Assistive Technology Practice graduate-level course. [More](#)



During Indiana's day during the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair, the project shared a brief video of Steve Swain talking about what he does and why he does it. Click the image to watch it.

September 3, Indiana AgrAbility Project Manager Chuck Baldwin attended the Indiana Amish Handicap [SIC] Gathering in Monroe, IN. [More](#)

Steve Swain has conducted multiple Indiana farm accessibility assessments for Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services on farms raising corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, pasture, brood cows and their calves, feeder cattle, contract finishing hogs, mushrooms, produce, and fruit. [More](#)

Maine

Maine AgrAbility staff attended the Brain Injury Association Annual Conference in Portland, Maine. They talked to dozens of people and provided brochures to increase awareness of Maine AgrAbility's role in working with farmers with disabilities.



Maine's Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners completed nine months of educational training to veterans, farmers with disabilities, and beginning farmers. [More](#)



Staff participated in the September session for the Mechanized Logging Operations Program (MLOP) in conjunction with Northern Maine Community College. Nine student loggers increased their understanding of ergonomics through fun, [More](#)

Michigan

Michigan AgrAbility helped a farmer with shoulder injuries and arthritis in his knee prepare for harvest by coordinating funding through Michigan Rehabilitation Services for a scaffolding stairs tower beside his grain bin. He can now safely climb his bin with stairs and handrails instead of a vertical ladder.



Staff developed a flier inviting growers to utilize Michigan AgrAbility for assessing and assisting any Spanish speaking workforce. Andrea Garza, AgrAbility employee, is bi-lingual and works effectively with the Spanish speaking community. Each person evaluated on the farm receives a gift. Several employees have benefitted from assistive technology like power equipment and additional steps to help them work easier on the farm.

Missouri

To address the needs of Missouri AgrAbility's customers, staff continued to build service capacity across Missouri through education and networking. This month, Missouri AgrAbility and its collaborative partners facilitated the following: [More](#)



Veteran Urban Farm members got hands-on experience in soil health through AgrAbility. Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Innovative Small Farm Outreach Program's (ISFOP) Jim Shepard and Susan Jaster introduced the Veteran Urban Farm (VUF) team (AgrAbility clients) of the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to soil health with hands-on learning. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion and National Farm Safety & Health Week. [More](#)

Lincoln University Farm Outreach Worker Angela Brattin offered a hands-on Jesup Wagon demonstration at three different events: Prairie Days 2022, Homesteaders Expo, and a Field Day at the University of Missouri Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon, MO, which included 2,000 FFA students.



Lincoln University Small Farm Specialist Miranda Duschack and Farm Outreach Worker Mary Bolling attended the Urban Food Systems Symposium in Kansas City September 26-28. They toured the Mercy Children's Hospital garden and learned the steps that have been taken to ensure accessibility for rehabilitation patients.

Veterans and caregivers learned about Missouri AgrAbility during a presentation by Maureen Cunningham, executive director with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO), and Missouri AgrAbility partner. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility is featured in the BIA-MO Annual Statewide Conference registration brochure as the rural track sponsor. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility is featured in outreach material for the upcoming BIA-MO Survivor and Family Seminar. [More](#)

Additional Missouri AgrAbility marketing activities by BIA-MO included in-person presentations by Maureen Cunningham at the SafeKids Missouri Coalition fall 2022 meeting. [More](#)

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility was in attendance at the 2022 Husker Harvest

Days Farm Show west of Grand Island, NE, in the Nebraska Farmer Health and Safety Tent. This year, staff shared their booth space with their friends from LifeLyfts by Life Essentials, which displayed a utility tractor outfitted with a remote-controlled person lift that was a great addition to Nebraska AgrAbility's display.



Nebraska AgrAbility had a booth at the Elmwood Health Fair in Elmwood, Nebraska. Aaron Yoder reported that he had an opportunity to visit with Nebraska Senator Robert Clements. Aaron thanked Senator Clements for supporting the bill that provided AT funding for AgrAbility.

Nebraska AgrAbility was given an opportunity to share the program during the Midwest Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Conference in Lincoln. Emergency managers, health care providers, Nebraska voluntary organizations active in disasters, business representatives, and NGOs like the American Red Cross were in attendance. [More](#)



New Mexico



On September 27 and September 28, NM AgrAbility partnered with National AgrAbility to hold a two-day conference at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) with informative presentations focused on the needs of food producers who are Native American, but open to all. [More](#)

North Carolina

NC AgrAbility Graduate Assistant Evan Hairston participated at the 11th Annual CAES Student Showcase of Excellence at NC A&T State University on September 7. Evan presented a poster titled "Networking and Helping Farmers with NC AgrAbility." [More](#)



On September 23, NC AgrAbility participated at the Farmer Veteran Coalition of North Carolina Educational Conference as an organizer and presenter. The Veteran Affairs Veteran Readiness and Employment Counselor Christiane Russell presented the services under chapter 33 and 31 available to veteran farmers. [More](#)

September 24, NC AgrAbility exhibited at the Caswell County Hoedown Festival in Yanceyville, NC. The festival was attended by approximately 400 people. Twenty-seven individuals received information about the program and had the chance to try ergonomic tools, and five of them registered on the listserv.



NC AgrAbility presented "AT for the Best Stewards of the Land: Our Farmers" at the NC Assistive Technology Program EXPO on September 29. [More](#)

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility's mission of education and assistance was on full display at the Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, September 20 - 22. Staff, farmers, and vendors greeted visitors, demonstrated assistive technology, displayed a tractor seat



comparison display, and showcased equipment to keep farmers working safely and productively. [More](#)

Cursive Ohio Bike Adventures charity ride was held September 3 in Hardin County, Ohio, with almost 100 riders participating in the ride. All proceeds benefit Ohio AgrAbility. Austin Heil, the founder of Cursive Ohio, presented Ohio AgrAbility with a check for \$4,465 at Farm Science Review. [More](#)



Pennsylvania

September started out with warm weather but ended with the Keystone State feeling the full effects of fall - including cooler temperatures and rain. Here's hoping everyone around the country is having a safe and successful harvest season.



AgrAbility PA is pleased to share a new anthemic video (think overview video with narrator) and three farmer testimonial videos featuring Jim Wright, Dennis & Lori Hunsberger, and Chelsi Shultz. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA staffers Kendra Martin and Marci Walborn met with a few hundred occupational therapists, including those from higher education programs for OTs across the state, at the statewide POTA conference, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. [More](#)



AgrAbility PA team members met with Andy Bater, a farmer who wears many hats in the agriculture community, to brainstorm about several AgrAbility activities. [More](#)

Thanks to NAP for offering some repeats of popular sessions from the 2022 NTW in Wisconsin. [More](#)

Tennessee



Great job on the part of Tennessee State University Extension and co-host Finis Stribling on conducting the TN Small Farm Expo highlighting the latest research in agriculture. The expo returned after going virtual a couple of years due to the pandemic. [More](#)

Congratulations to the first cohort of students that completed University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's new horticultural therapy program! [More](#)

TNAP helped promote National Farm Health and Safety week and the great AgriSafe educational webinars. [More](#)

Another TNAP program highlight was on overall farmer health. UTIA is proud of its programs that not only encourage practical farm safety, but also promote the health and wellbeing of Tennessee farmers and their families. [More](#)

In celebration of National Service Dog Month, Smokey Mountain Service Dogs shared facts, etiquette tips, and some of the tasks service dogs perform all month long. [More](#)

TN AgrAbility promoted National Suicide Prevention Month during September. It is important to feel comfortable helping someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts or depression. Call or text 988 if you or someone you know needs help now. [More](#)

TN AgrAbility presented at the Western Region TSU New Farmer Academy (NFA) at Black Seeds Small Farm. Black Seeds Small Farm received the TSU Small Farm award at TSU Small Farm Expo. [More](#)



Farmers attending the 2022 Beef and Forage Field Day held at Middle TN AgResearch and Education Center in Spring Hill learned about TN AgrAbility through its display. The most popular assistive technology tool (AT) was the antivibration gloves and how the gloves cut down on vibration and help with grip strength.

A Weakley County gardener benefited from a donation made by a veteran widow. After a long recovery from COVID, a Weakley County gardener was able to get back in his garden this year. Due to COVID, said gardener has respiratory and mobility issues which kept him from doing what he loves, working in his garden. [More](#)



University of Tennessee Ag Day was back to in-person this year. The day consisted of displays and interactive exhibits, and TNAP was a participant. Ag Day was held on the agriculture campus on the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, [More](#)

Texas

Texas AgrAbility staff partnered with Texas Workforce Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation staff and Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) staff to conduct an on-farm assessment.

Texas AgrAbility staff will be presenting to University of St. Augustine students about disability in the agriculture workplace.

AgrAbility staff met with the Southwest Ag Center to discuss new project goals and potential partnerships.

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff was excited to participate in the Utah Center for Assistive Technology Annual Open House on Sept. 13 in Salt Lake City. Staff set up a table and was able to explain AgrAbility to many of the over 100 attendees.

On Sept. 13, AgrAbility of Utah staff presented at USU Extension Cover Crop and Sorghum Field Days. [More](#)

AgrAbility of Utah was able to present to 25 members of the Cache Interagency Council on Sept. 26 in Logan, Utah. [More](#)

Virginia

During the month of September, AgrAbility Virginia staff were able to interact with multiple audiences to share about the work of AgrAbility. Team members attended a Virginia State University field day, the National Conference on Next-Generation Sustainable Technologies for Small-Scale Producers, and a fourth-grade ag safety day in Wise County.

October is shaping up to be another busy month filled with presentations, expos, and the

annual AgrAbility Virginia Advisory Board meeting.

On October 4, the team presented at a workshop on farming with a disability hosted by the Virginia State University Small Farms Outreach Program in Brunswick County.

Additionally, AgrAbility VA will be kicking off a fundraising campaign during the month of October.

Washington

WA AgrAbility confirmed the continuation of their current AgrAbility grant for year four.

In September, AgrAbility staff exhibited at the Washington State Shellfish Growers and the Affiliated Tribes of Native Indians Conferences Washington. Staff shared resources, displayed AT, and promoted new and developing lending library locations.

New staff completed three successful home visits and is currently connecting the clients with appropriate AT and other needed community resources.

International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa

The Africa AgrAbility staff, friends, and partners were hugely disappointed by the forced cancellation of the first AgrAbility for Africa workshop due to Covid-19-related shutdown; but the good news is, the workshop has been rescheduled to take place in June 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda. [More](#)

Data are lacking on the actual figures of diabetes-related amputations, but visits to clinics and communities show a high prevalence rate of amputations in Uganda and other sub-Saharan Africa countries. [More](#)

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Farmers with disabilities get a helping hand](#) (Washington State AgrAbility Project)
 - [ResourceAbility Fair - October 2022](#) (Tennessee AgrAbility Project)
 - [Women Rooted in Agriculture: All about AgrAbility](#) (AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians)
 - [New video addresses mental health in the agricultural community](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
-

Other News

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

- [USDA Releases its Strategic Roadmap for Increasing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility](#)
- [Protecting Agriculture's Future – Wisconsin Farm Safety & Health Week](#)
- [Food in the Field](#) - A Talking Total Farmer Health AgriSafe Network podcast
- TSU Agriculture Student Zaria Hunter says she prayed for better days in her fight against a rare form of cancer. This semester marks her triumphant return to the

University. Read her courageous story [HERE](#). (Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project)

- [USDA Invests \\$14M to Strengthen Hispanic-serving Higher Education Programs](#)
- [Fireman speaks about safety on the farm](#)
- [Off-Farm Income Increasingly Important for Agricultural and Rural Economy](#)
- [Slow moving vehicle signs save lives](#)
- [USDA Offers Farmworkers and Meatpacking Workers \\$600 in COVID Relief](#)
- [Noble Steeds: Queen Elizabeth's connection to Kentucky horse country](#)

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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October 2022

National AgrAbility Project

Steve Swain, assistive technology specialist for the National AgrAbility Project, traveled to Langston University in Oklahoma to teach the AgrAbility module for the Langston University School of Physical Therapy's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, and Clinical Education Seminar 1. The program is led by Dr. Aliya N. Chaudry, PT, MBA, DPT, J.D. ELI-Fellow, and professor of physical therapy. The students are preparing to provide clinical physical therapy services in rural Oklahoma. The module included classroom presentations, hands-on examples of assistive technology, and on-farm sessions.

Submitted by Steve Swain

October 2022

Alaska

Staff from Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) attended the 2022 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Alaska Fall Conference where they networked and connected with physical therapists from across the state, providing information about how AgrAbility can support their patients. ATLA will be including information about PT Month and how AT supports PT patients (including information about agriculture) in their newsletter this month as well.

Art Nash will provide outreach by teaching about accessible growing areas and strategies to implement universal design. In this course he explores using landscaping, tool modifications, raised beds/growing boxes as well as layout considerations, using plenty of picture examples of various styles and functionality as well as guidance from Washington State University Extension's [Gardening for Life PDF](#). The class assumes no causes nor seeks to categorize diagnoses but to suggest strategies for helping a gardener/grower have better access to serving and getting to their gardening area. With this information, horticulture and agriculture enthusiasts can 'grow in place' as they age in place.

Submitted by DeShana York

October 2022

California

California AgrAbility affiliate staff presented "All About California AgrAbility" for the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The luncheon event was hosted by CDFA via zoom for 13 of the department's staff members to help them learn more about how California AgrAbility supports farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers throughout the state so they can continue to work safely and successfully. Staff gave a brief overview of the history of California AgrAbility and CDFA's joint efforts to help those with disabilities and to improve mental health conditions for those working in agriculture.



Submitted by Angelina Padilla

October 2022

Colorado

For several years, the Denver Botanical Gardens Chatfield Farms have offered free hands-on farming classes for veterans at their working farm outside the city. Colorado AgrAbility Project staff Jim Craig was invited to teach a session on ag injury avoidance, safety, and assistive technology. As the program developed, it became obvious that the veteran students had a need for exposure to farm business planning and access to credit.

Three years ago, Jim was asked to expand his presentation into sections on assistive technology and farm economics. This class structure has proven to be widely accepted by the vets in the program and has now resulted in a small quantity of regular referrals of disabled veteran farmers to the project. Jim is capturing statistics from the classes and is hopeful that these experiences will assist in writing a USDA grant to fund expanded farmer veteran business planning and access to credit classes.

Submitted by Jim Craig

October 2022

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility is offering a tractor safety workshop in Blairsville, GA, on November 4th. The Project has recently had an increase in the number of new farmers with little experience operating a tractor. This workshop is designed to teach new farmers the safe way to operate large machinery. The day will

feature classroom learning in the morning and hands-on tractor operation in the afternoon.

Staff attended the Georgia Organics September 2022 Farmer Field Day: Work Smart, Work Sharp: Choosing and Maintaining the Right Tools for your Farming Operation. It was held September 26th at Gaia Gardens in Decatur. Host Stephanie Simmons of Polyculture Productions led the day with a farm tour along with demonstrations of several implements used on location. Spike from Sweet Hone Atlanta closed the event with a tool and knife sharpening presentation and demonstration.

Submitted by AgrAbility in Georgia

October 2022

Indiana

Steve Swain, rural rehabilitation specialist for the Indiana AgrAbility Project, presented a "Practical Application of Assistive Technology" to Dr. Brad Duerstock's Assistive Technology Practice graduate-level course. The presentation showed the practical application of the accessibility assessment process along with examples of assistive technology for the farm and rural businesses.

Steve Swain has conducted multiple Indiana farm accessibility assessments for Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services on farms raising corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, pasture, brood cows and their calves, feeder cattle, contract finishing hogs, mushrooms, produce, and fruit. Mr. Swain also made farm visits to potential VR clients raising hay, dairy, sheep, and goats. Farmer limitations included stroke, back injuries, arthritis, and lower extremity neuropathies.

Submitted by Steve Swain

September 3, Indiana AgrAbility Project Manager Chuck Baldwin attended the Indiana Amish Handicap [SIC] Gathering in Monroe, IN. There were roughly 250 Amish in attendance, including the families of those with disabilities. Among them was Michael, a boy of 13 who is blind and facing possible deafness as the result of two brain tumors. In spite of his physical struggles, Michael is a very positive, upbeat young man. He fell in love a couple of years ago with a talking tape measure/inclinometer that Ned Stoller demonstrated at the National Handicap Gathering. Chuck spoke with the family again about it and has made arrangements to purchase one for the family that will be delivered soon.

Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

October 2022

Maine

Maine's Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners completed nine months of educational training to veterans, farmers with disabilities, and beginning farmers. Thirteen participants finished the course out of 31 who started in January. Staff is reviewing surveys and finalizing reports in order to inform next season's programming.

Staff participated in the September session for the Mechanized Logging Operations Program (MLOP) in conjunction with Northern Maine Community College. Nine student loggers increased their understanding of ergonomics through fun, meaningful activities. They further received individualized assessments to learn their ideal seating position in various logging machines.



Submitted by Anne Martin

October 2022

Missouri

To address the needs of Missouri AgrAbility's customers, staff continued to build service capacity across Missouri through education and networking. This month, Missouri AgrAbility and its collaborative partners facilitated the following:

- Provided three farmstead assessments to client farmers who are engaged in farming or want to become involved in a farming-related occupation, including veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Used targeted marketing strategies to direct the public to initiatives in AgrAbility-related education, networking, and assistance.
- Facilitated two educational programs to adult participants, with AgrAbility resources disseminated to MU Extension specialists, collaborators, and public and private agriculture stakeholders within the context of production agriculture and farm safety and health. Topic areas presented by Missouri AgrAbility included the safe selection and placement of assistive technologies; SMART technologies, adapted devices, climate-smart agriculture with the selection, adoption, and placement of innovative technologies; 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.
- Presented at four FFA and 4-H field days hosted by MU Research, Extension and Education Centers. Rural and urban high schoolers learned about hearing protection, mask protection, grain bin safety, PTO safety, accessible beekeeping, and about 988, stress, anxiety, and depression.



Veteran Urban Farm members got hands-on experience in soil health through AgrAbility. Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Innovative Small Farm Outreach Program's (ISFOP) Jim Shepard and Susan Jaster introduced the Veteran Urban Farm (VUF) team (AgrAbility clients) of the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to soil health with hands-on learning. Through

MO AgrAbility, Jaster and Shepard presented the life and habits of three breeds of earthworms, discussed regenerative soil health practices for market fruit and vegetable producers, and tested soil samples using a MicroBioMeter test kit to show the ratio of fungus to bacteria. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) demonstrated the Rainfall Simulator system to show how water infiltration changes with soil conditions such as over-tillage, over-grazing, and overuse of chemicals. Luke Skinner of NRCS discussed soil health and answered many questions from the group. VUF members are military veterans who have been participating all year in a workshop series provided by MO AgrAbility.



Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion and National Farm Safety & Health Week. Additionally, they have been planning and preparing content for the Missouri feature during the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair in October. Please make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility, @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Submitted by Karen Funkenbusch, Susan Jaster, Elizabeth Picking, and Tevin Uthlaut

Veterans and caregivers learned about Missouri AgrAbility during a presentation by Maureen Cunningham, executive director with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO), and Missouri AgrAbility partner. This presentation was during the St. Louis VA Caregivers Network Virtual Resource Fair on September 15. This Missouri AgrAbility marketing continued with the link to the Missouri AgrAbility website included in the St. Louis VA Caregivers Network October 2022 e-newsletter.

Missouri AgrAbility is featured in the BIA-MO Annual Statewide Conference registration brochure as the rural track sponsor. This brochure is available in print and electronic formats to reach thousands of professionals in healthcare, rehabilitation, agriculture, vocational, veterans services, safety, and other fields that serve AgrAbility clients.

Missouri AgrAbility is featured in outreach material for the upcoming BIA-MO Survivor and Family Seminar. This marketing highlights Missouri AgrAbility as a program partner. Outreach material for this seminar was distributed in print and electronic formats during September 2022 to raise awareness and market Missouri AgrAbility directly to hundreds of AgrAbility clients.

Additional Missouri AgrAbility marketing activities by BIA-MO included in-person presentations by Maureen Cunningham at the SafeKids Missouri Coalition fall 2022 meeting. Another educational session was presented to community members as part of the St. Louis Public Library Buder Branch Community Education Series on September 23.

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

October 2022

Nebraska

Nebraska AgrAbility was given an opportunity to share the program during the Midwest Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Conference in Lincoln. Emergency managers, health care providers, Nebraska voluntary organizations active in disasters, business representatives, and NGOs like the American Red Cross were in attendance. John Davis spent two days at the booth visiting with attendees and sharing information about Nebraska AgrAbility. In her keynote address, Kim Nelson from SAMSHA Region 7 mentioned how happy she was to see organizations like Nebraska AgrAbility represented at the conference, and noted the importance of engaging in conversations with rural communities and those that serve them. John shared, "Looking at how AgrAbility fits into the disaster response area, I see us being part of the long-term recovery process for those facing new challenges. Clients with existing disabilities may also need additional assistance we can help provide after a disaster. There may also be opportunities for others to become candidates for our services." The Nebraska Preparedness Partnership provided Nebraska AgrAbility space for no cost; the value of this space was \$1,000.



Submitted by Soni Cochran

October 2022

New Mexico



On September 27 and September 28, NM AgrAbility partnered with National AgrAbility to hold a two-day conference at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) with informative presentations focused on the needs of food producers who are Native American, but open to all. Presentation topics included:



- Rancher Bred & Grazing Options for Your Environment
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Action Trackchair
- Services for Veterans in Agriculture
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Farmer Panel



Sixty-nine people attended all or part of the conference. Attendees were highly interactive and asked great questions.



Submitted by New Mexico AgrAbility Project

October 2022

North Carolina



NC AgrAbility Graduate Assistant Evan Hairston participated at the 11th Annual CAES Student Showcase of Excellence at NC A&T State University on September 7. Evan presented a poster titled "Networking and Helping Farmers with NC AgrAbility." The purpose of this activity was to display the summer experiences of students participating in internships, study abroad, research, and other programs to the broader university community.

Eighty students shared their poster presentations and 130 attendees learned about their experiences.

On September 23, NC AgrAbility participated at the Farmer Veteran Coalition of North Carolina Educational Conference as an organizer and presenter. The Veteran Affairs Veteran Readiness and Employment Counselor Christiane Russell presented the services under chapter 33 and 31 available to veteran farmers. The NC



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Assistant Administrator Kenny Gibbs presented the policy and services available to farmers with disabilities. And NC AgrAbility Manager Betty Rodriguez wrapped up with the collaborative work between the three programs to increase access to services among farmers with disabilities. Thirty-eight people attended the presentation.



NC AgrAbility presented "AT for the Best Stewards of the Land: Our Farmers" at the NC Assistive Technology Program EXPO on September 29. The event showcases the use of assistive technology among different groups, disabilities, and programs, and manufacturers exhibited technologies. Farmer Beverly Bowen presented along with NC AgrAbility Manager Betty Rodriguez.

Submitted by Beatriz (Betty) Rodriguez

October 2022

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility's mission of education and assistance was on full display at the Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, September 20 - 22. Staff, farmers, and vendors greeted visitors, demonstrated assistive technology, displayed a tractor seat comparison display, and showcased equipment to keep farmers working safely and productively. Highlights of the display were a pilot lift and an accessible lawn tractor from LifeLyfts, plus the irrepressible Marty Cotterman, who not only demonstrated his own LifeLyfts equipment, but also helped run the spinning prize wheel, asking trivia questions about Ohio ag, safety, AT, AgrAbility, and stretches, and distributed candy to everyone who spun the wheel. The prize wheel drew visitors into the tent and gave staff (and Marty) the opportunity to share information about Ohio AgrAbility, assistive tech equipment and devices, and agricultural trivia.



Mark Zieman from K&M Manufacturing supplied a tractor seat display and led visitors through a comparison of different types of seats - from the metal pan seat to a pair of air ride seats with increasingly more comfortable suspensions - and discussed seat adjustment options and all-weather materials. Having the seats not only encouraged people to try them out for comparison, but they also provided a restful place to sit, and afforded opportunities for further discussion about Ohio AgrAbility's services and universal design technology for all farmers.



Cursive Ohio Bike Adventures charity ride was held September 3 in Hardin County, Ohio, with almost 100 riders participating in the ride. All proceeds benefit Ohio AgrAbility. Austin Heil, the founder of Cursive Ohio, presented Ohio AgrAbility with a check for \$4,465 at Farm Science Review. This was the second year the Cursive Ohio bike ride benefited Ohio AgrAbility, and everyone on the staff is very grateful for the time and effort of Austin, his business partner Kevin, and all of the riders and volunteers who participated.

Submitted by Laura Akgerman

October 2022

Pennsylvania

AgrAbility PA is pleased to share a new anthemic video (think overview video with narrator) and three farmer testimonial videos featuring Jim Wright, Dennis & Lori Hunsberger, and Chelsi Shultz. Take a look at all of them on the [AgrAbility PA YouTube channel](#). It's so true...the farmers are the real stars of the show and what make this work meaningful.



AgrAbility PA staffers Kendra Martin and Marci Walborn met with a few hundred occupational therapists, including those from higher education programs for OTs across the state, at the statewide POTA conference, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. The outreach event targeted OTs and those educating OTs in the state to share information and resources about AgrAbility. Roughly two dozen schools requested follow-up presentations to be planned for OT

classes.

AgrAbility PA team members met with Andy Bater, a farmer who wears many hats in the agriculture community, to brainstorm about several AgrAbility activities. Andy is a member on the State Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, a State Committee member for the USDA Farm Service Agency in PA, and a member of the Federal Communications Commission Precision Agriculture Task Force. The team was able to share information about AgrAbility and common barriers AgrAbility clients face, and to discuss possible solutions. Discussions included mental health care and physical health care disparities in rural areas, lack of funding solutions for AT, and more. Andy provided a lot of great ideas, took the lead on multiple action items, and has been invited to join the AgrAbility advisory board. This was a great connection - looking forward to future collaborations!

Thanks to NAP for offering some repeats of popular sessions from the 2022 NTW in Wisconsin. Suzanna Windon's presentation, "Managing Stress on the Farm," and Kendra Martin's collaborative presentation with Ohio, Kansas, and Maine, "Making Lemonade When Outreach Events Hand You Lemons," were both featured in September.

Submitted by Kendra Martin

October 2022

Tennessee

Great job on the part of Tennessee State University Extension and co-host Finis Stribling on conducting the TN Small Farm Expo highlighting the latest research in agriculture. The expo returned after going virtual a couple of years due to the pandemic. Note this link to a [local new station covering this educational event](#).

TN AgrAbility Extension team was part of the expo by having their exhibit in the trade show. This opportunity allowed staff to inform those who visited about what AgrAbility is and how the project helps producers to continue their farming operation with their physical limitations. The attached photo highlights the TN AgrAbility Extension team taking part in the TSU Small Farm Expo.



Congratulations to the first cohort of students that completed University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's new horticultural therapy program! This new stand-alone certificate program from the [University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences](#) and [UT Gardens Knoxville](#) equips students with the skills to use horticultural therapy as a means of physical rehabilitation, vocational training and improving cognitive abilities. Dr. Derrick Stowell, Education and Horticultural Therapy Program administrator and TN AgrAbility partner, conducted the program. To learn more and see how to get involved, visit [Herbert College of Agriculture Celebrates Inaugural Class of Horticultural Therapy Students | Institute News \(tennessee.edu\)](#).

TNAP helped promote National Farm Health and Safety week and the great AgriSafe educational webinars. These highlighted [#NFSHW](#) webinars focused on safe practices in confined spaces, like grain bins. As the size and number of grain bins increases across Tennessee, [Tennessee AgrAbility](#), a [UT Extension](#) program that enhances quality of life for agricultural workers with disabilities, is working to help lower the chances of grain bin incidents throughout the state. Tennessee AgrAbility, in partnership with [Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads](#), UT Extension and TSU Extension, has provided the Tennessee Grain Bin Safety and Rescue Awareness Training to nearly 500 Extension agents, producers, and rescue personnel across the state since 2020.

Another TNAP program highlight was on overall farmer health. UTIA is proud of its programs that not only encourage practical farm safety, but also promote the health and wellbeing of Tennessee farmers and their families. [UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences'](#) Tennessee Farmer Family Health & Wellness program provides resources and information on farm safety, stress management, finances, mental health awareness, and more! Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

In celebration of National Service Dog Month, Smokey Mountain Service Dogs shared facts, etiquette tips, and some of the tasks service dogs perform all month long. One example was a dog wearing the [Bold Lead Designs](#) balance assistance harness (BAH). When held by the veteran, the handle of the BAH can provide counterbalance support while walking. The device is not usable for weight bearing. Counterbalance for walking is one of the many ways these dogs help disabled veterans live a more independent life. Smokey Mountain Service Dogs works closely with TN AgrAbility and farmer veterans.

TN AgrAbility promoted National Suicide Prevention Month during September. It is important to feel comfortable helping someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts or depression. Call or text 988 if you or someone you know needs help now.

This serves as a great reminder from KY Raising Hope partners that for farmers, it can be hard to create work/life boundaries. It's just not possible to be 100% committed to work, friends, and family, and to take care of yourself all at the same time. [Rooted Farmers](#) discusses creating effective boundaries and the intersection between mental and physical health with psychologist Evan Bick, PsyD.



TN AgrAbility presented at the Western Region TSU New Farmer Academy (NFA) at Black Seeds Small Farm. Black Seeds Small Farm received the TSU Small Farm award at TSU Small Farm Expo. The highlight of the day was watching the participants "play" with the assistive technology tools that were on hand. TSU New Farmer Academy is a seven-month certificate program designed for those with an interest in becoming agricultural entrepreneurs.

A Weakley County gardener benefited from a donation made by a veteran widow. After a long recovery from COVID, a Weakley County gardener was able to get back in his garden this year. Due to COVID, said gardener has respiratory and mobility issues which kept him from doing what he loves, working in his garden. A veteran widow donated to the TN AgrAbility program several electric wheelchairs her husband used until his passing. It was a blessing to be able to pass it from one veteran to another.



University of Tennessee Ag Day was back to in-person this year. The day consisted of displays and interactive exhibits, and TNAP was a participant. Ag Day was held on the agriculture campus on the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, hours prior to the Tennessee Volunteers and Florida Gators football game, and was free to the public. This annual event brings together alumni, recognizing the 2022 Tennessee Farmer of the Year and letting the general public gain knowledge of many aspects of agriculture.



Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project

October 2022

Utah

On Sept. 13, AgrAbility of Utah staff presented at USU Extension Cover Crop and Sorghum Field Days. This event was held in Bothwell, Utah, and was attended by over 30 farmers and ranchers. Participants were able to learn about and view over 70 different cover crop plots.

AgrAbility of Utah was able to present to 25 members of the Cache Interagency Council on Sept. 26 in Logan, Utah. The mission of the Cache Interagency Council is to unite non-profits and community service organizations in sharing ideas, upcoming events, and ongoing services, thus producing a spirit of unity and cooperation among the participating organizations.

Submitted by Randall Bagley

October 2022

AgrAbility for Africa

The Africa AgrAbility staff, friends, and partners were hugely disappointed by the forced cancellation of the first AgrAbility for Africa workshop due to Covid-19-related shutdown; but the good news is, the workshop has been rescheduled to take place in June 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda. The event should provide a great opportunity to be together, visit Africa, benefit from a very diverse range of rehabilitation and assistive technology experiences, and learn from each other, all while improving inclusive and rehabilitation health care and assistive technology service access for rural farming communities faced with disabilities across Africa.

Data is lacking on the actual figures of diabetes-related amputations, but visits to clinics and communities show a high prevalence rate of amputations in Uganda and other sub-Saharan Africa countries. To reverse the situation, AgrAbility for Africa staff is intensifying education and support for diagnostic services access in order to prevent severe consequences of complications - among which is the risk of lower limb amputation. Lower limb amputation not only causes major disfigurement, but renders people less mobile and at risk of loss of independence.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

October 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 Sunbelt AG Expo
Dates October 18-20, 2022
City, State Moultrie, Georgia
Contact Info/Web link <https://sunbeltexpo.com/>

Name BattleGround to Breaking Ground Applicant Webinar
Dates October 19, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EDT
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAod-ChrTwrGNOJS707sQFkUvySvsSjv46P>

Name Accessible Care for the Commercial Fishing Industry
Dates October 25, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7Iy4-wYzR7yqcJ5dCxVclA

Name Pest Prevention Tips to "Close the Barn Door Before the Horse Bolts"
Dates October 26, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. ET
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3NS6mjFCjjEPXJs

Name National FFA Convention
Dates October 26-29, 2022
City, State Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact Info/Web link <https://convention.ffa.org/>

link

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

Name 2022 Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference
Dates November 13-15, 2022
City, State Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Contact Info/Web link <https://conference.farmvetco.org/>

Name Nevada Regional AgrAbility Workshop
Dates November 29 - December 1, 2022
City, State Reno, Nevada
Contact Info/Web link <http://www.agrability.org/training-events/in-person/>

Name BattleGround to Breaking Ground Cohort 13 Application Due
Dates Application Due Monday, December 5th by 6:00 p.m. EST
City, State Application Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://agrillifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/application-battleground-to-breaking-ground/01t4x000002ciPrAAI>

Name 2023 Commodity Classic
Dates March 9-11, 2023
City, State Orlando, Florida
Contact Info/Web link <https://commodityclassic.com/>