

AgrAbility e·Note

November 2022

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

Annual Staff Needs Assessment. NAP evaluator Brian French is scheduled to send out a request for SRAP staff members to complete the 2022 Annual Staff Needs Assessment (ASNA). This is an opportunity for SRAPs to provide feedback about NAP's services, resources, and future direction. If you: are from a SRAP funded during the 2021-22 project year; started before 9/1/22; and aren't paid by NAP in any way, you should receive a survey invitation within a week. If you don't please contact jones@purdue.edu.

2023 NTW Updates:

- Don't forget that the farmer stipend applications are due December 15th. The application can be found on the NTW website on the [Stipends tab](#).
- The date has passed to submit a presentation proposal. The planning committee is reviewing the submissions this month and plans to have a tentative schedule by December. Staff are also hoping to open registration around the middle of December, so watch for that next month.
- Interested persons can still submit an application to display a poster. Access the [Call for Posters here](#).
- Please continue to reach out to businesses and organizations that might want to participate either as an exhibitor or a sponsor. You can access the [Exhibitor/Sponsor Google form here](#). If a paper version is needed to share, that can be found on the NTW website under the [Exhibitor or Sponsor tabs](#). Please feel free to share these links.



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



Regional Workshop in Reno, NV - The last day to register is November 18th!! Join us in Reno at the Silver Legacy Resort November 29th - December 1st. The event will be focusing on worksite assessment, AT, Western Regional Stress Assistance Program, and mental health/wellness, along with some small group discussions. On December 1st, a tour 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

AgrAbility/North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center webinar: "Corn, Cattle, and a Flask of Whiskey: Understanding stress and substance use in agricultural and rural populations." Wednesday, November 30 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET. www.agrability.org/training-category/upcoming/



Join us for a monthly Zoom discussion on "Safety During Farm Visits," Tuesday, November 29 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Leading the discussion will be Bob Fetsch and Candy Leathers from Colorado AgrAbility who are working on a fact sheet on this topic.



The National AgrAbility Project helped staff the AgrAbility booth again this year at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. Chuck Baldwin (NAP) worked there with Annie Klahn of AgrAbility of Wisconsin for a couple of days. [More](#)

Paul Jones gave web presentations for the Amputee Coalition (October 14) and the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators' Service Access Subgroup (October 17), the latter along with Maureen Cunningham of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri and Missouri AgrAbility.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 AgrAbility Virtual State Fair - to those who posted on Facebook and Twitter and those who followed the event. In addition to the NAP, 14 funded SRAPs and 2 affiliates shared their initiatives and impacts during the October event. You can still view their posts at www.facebook.com/AgrAbilityVSF and twitter.com/AgrAbilityVSF.



The National AgrAbility Project participated with the SAY Group in a safety exhibit at the 2022 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Convention attendance was estimated at over 63,000 FFA members, advisors, and family members. [More](#)

Toolbox Spotlight

The [Walk-Behind Tractor](#) - also called a two-wheeled or walking tractor - allows the user to perform a multitude of tasks in small areas without digging or lifting. It accommodates over 20 different attachments and is popular in high tunnel hoop houses, where farm size is small, and/or where the terrain steep and rugged. It can go where four-wheel compact tractors can't. Most makes/models come with: reversible handlebars giving it front or rear PTO, independently engaged PTO, multi-speed forward and reverse, steering brakes, lockable wheel differential, and easy-interchange implement system.



State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

The AKAgrAbility team has been busy following up with current clients and working to hire

and expand the team to assist with increased engagement of the project. In addition, the Alaska project is partnering heavily with the Alaska Farm Bureau to have an increased presence at the 2nd Annual Alaska Farm Bureau & Trade Show in November. [More](#)

Art Nash, Jonathan Kamler (Ph.D. candidate in the UAF-Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Extension) and Debu Misra had a town hall style discussion with the attendees of the Alaska Rural Water Association meeting at the end of October. [More](#)

California

California AgrAbility Program (affiliate) staff were invited to present "A History of AgrAbility in California" for the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Sutter-Yuba office outreach staff. [More](#)



As part of the Puentes Network, California AgrAbility participated in the Knights Landing Fall Health Fair. Attendees were offered free health exams and took part in cooking and gardening demos. [More](#)

California AgrAbility will be hosting the upcoming Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, December 8th. [More](#)

Colorado

The Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) and Colorado State University Extension (CSUE) are looking for four full-time regional Extension behavioral health specialists to work with the CAP team to provide in-the-field stress management information and education to farmers and ranchers, [More](#)

The First Annual Colorado Agricultural Behavioral Health and Well-being Summit was held on September 28th-29th. AgWell had the privilege of hosting the summit of organizations that serve the behavioral health needs of Colorado's farmers, ranchers, ag workers, and rural communities. [More](#)



Florida

Florida's first-ever AgrAbility project has been initiated by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida (CILNCF). [More](#)

Florida AgrAbility attended the Extension Professionals Association of Florida Conference at the end of August. This was an opportunity to briefly introduce the AgrAbility project to the Extension professionals. [More](#)

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the 2022 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo. Staff were very excited to have the University of Florida join them this year! The exhibit included companies that produce or sell assistive technology used by farmers with disabilities, [More](#)

Georgia AgrAbility is thankful to P.H.A.R.M. DOG USA for providing a dog to one of its clients. P.H.A.R.M. DOG USA brought the dog and trained the farmer on October 25-27. The farmer instantly bonded with the dog named Skippy. [More](#)



The Shepherd Center Hospital is GA AgrAbility's non-profit partner. The hospital has started a tool checkoff program that evaluates a patient's tool use after a brain injury. AgrAbility staff helped to train therapists at the Shepherd Center on how to use power tools safely. [More](#)

Georgia AgrAbility will be hosting a tractor safety and driving workshop in Blairsville, Georgia, November 4th. [More](#)

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility held its second semi-annual advisory team meeting at Purdue's ADM building October 12th. Twenty people attended in-person and one advisor via Zoom. Items of business or discussion included, among others: [More](#)



Maine



Staff attended the Maine OT Association conference "Contextual Diversity: New Frontiers of OT Practice" and presented "Working with Land and Sea Farmers through the Lens of OT." Thirty people saw the presentation and 10s of brochures were provided to increase awareness of Maine AgrAbility's role in working with farmers with disabilities.

Survey results from Maine's Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners highlighted that trauma is widespread, regardless of veteran affiliation. Data suggests that B2B has a positive effect on post-traumatic stress growth and community reintegration.



Michigan

Michigan AgrAbility staff are continuing to work with their farmers throughout harvest season and are currently helping a farmer obtain new equipment.

Missouri



Since the beginning of the new school year, Missouri AgrAbility implemented six 4-H Save Your Brain SPIN Clubs in three counties and reached 413 youth. Staff currently are in the process of recruiting new Save Your Brain ambassadors for this 4-H program year. [More](#)

David Middleton, MO AgrAbility consultant, attended the Hermann FFA Farm Safety Day on behalf of MU Extension Missouri AgrAbility and educated 80 students on power take-off safety. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility staff participated in the "Implementing Home Modifications in a Community-Based Setting" given by Emily Somerville. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility continues to focus its social media efforts on program promotion and, this month, the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair. Please make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP) outreach workers utilized the Jessup Wagon 2.0 to provide an extending-the-growing-season train-the-trainer workshop for the Barry County Missouri Master Gardeners. [More](#)



Missouri AgrAbility was highlighted during the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Annual Statewide Conference through a presentation by Karen Funkenbusch, Missouri AgrAbility PI. [More](#)

Maureen Cunningham with BIA-MO shared successes of Missouri AgrAbility with brain injury program managers from across the country during an Access to Service workgroup of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Grant federal program. [More](#)

Nebraska



Emily Jacobson set up at the YMCA Fieldhouse in Norfolk, Nebraska, for "Amazing Morning." The event was hosted by Northeast Nebraska Down Syndrome Association. It was well attended with over 100 families! [More](#)

Nebraska AgrAbility features several stories and case studies on the [web site](#). [More](#)

New Mexico

New Mexico AgrAbility Project is working to coordinate a curriculum to encourage health care professionals to leverage three-dimensional printing to support occupations of food growing as well as how to engage rehabilitation professionals and food-producers in injury prevention through brief, engaging social media posts. Staff will share links and more as their activities develop.

North Carolina

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T State University participated in the NC State Fair in Raleigh, NC, from October 13 - 23. The exhibit highlighted the programs available in the college and the AgrAbility program. Thousands of people attended the event, and 70 attendees took information about the program to share with family and friends.



NC AgrAbility trained Extension agents as NC AgrAbility ambassadors on October 3 at the state Extension conference in Greensboro, NC. Four participants were able to learn more about AgrAbility by participating in the intermediate level training. They took AgrAbility tools and materials to enhance their county programs.

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff were recently reminded of how farmers benefit from AgrAbility services and how pieces of equipment, both simple and complex, impact productivity. Ohio farmers Steve and Julie McFalls attended the Farm Science Review in September and were effusive in



their praise of the new equipment Steve had received from Ohio's vocational rehabilitation agency Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). [More](#)

Pennsylvania

The month of October brought beautiful weather, mild temperatures, and fall foliage across the state of Pennsylvania, but it was also a busy month for the AgrAbility PA team. Take a read through some of the project highlights.

Staff members Linda Fetzer and Abbie Spackman and an AgrAbility PA farmer presented to the Penn State Extension Women Rooted in Ag group. The session is available on the [PSU Extension website](#). [More](#)



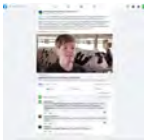
Abbie Spackman attended the Centre County PA Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. AgrAbility PA supporters introduced policy wording to help support farmers with disabilities and farmers facing health emergencies. The policies were approved by the county membership and will be moved on to the state level in November.



Abbie attended the [PA Farm Link](#) advisory board meeting held at [Grow Pittsburgh's Braddock Farms](#). Part of the meeting was spent touring the urban farm that thrives next to an operational steel mill and within view of Kennywood amusement park. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA staff participated in several NAP-related activities including the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF), National Training Workshop planning meeting, and the Zoom session: "AT Act Programs & AT Loan Libraries."

AgrAbility PA held its advisory board meeting in October. Familiar and new faces combined with fresh ideas and suggestions filled the day-long meeting. This board is crucial to the work carried out by the AgrAbility PA staff year-round. Much gratitude and appreciation for the time and commitment of this group of individuals.



Staff member Kendra Martin participated in several opportunities to highlight AgrAbility PA during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October) including: [More](#)

Tennessee

Thank you to National AgrAbility for showcasing all the AgrAbility states at the Virtual State Fair! Another successful fair and great examples of the impact AgrAbility is making nationwide! TN AgrAbility was featured October 21 on Facebook and Twitter. TN AgrAbility received positive feedback from farmers and partners who participated.



TN AgrAbility in collaboration with the TN Department of Human Services celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month by co-hosting the Resource Ability Assistive Technology Access Fair in Lebanon, TN. [More](#)

A training session was held for Vocational Rehabilitation counselors lead by STAR Center and UT Extension. TNAP and VR talked about ways they can strengthen assistive technology services for farmers with disabilities. Future trainings are planned.

TN AgrAbility set up an AgrAbility display at the 2022 TN Association of Rescue Squads Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN. Staff completed the Technical Large Animal Emergency Response training course while in attendance.



TN AgrAbility participated in the Gibson and Carrol Counties' Ag Leadership Days. Participants learned about the program and disability awareness.

Fourth graders learned the importance of wearing helmets at the TN AgrAbility station during the Fayette County Farm Fest. One of the group leaders who had visited the station several times that day, volunteered to teach the last group that came through.



Texas

Texas AgrAbility staff presented to occupational therapy students at the University of St. Augustine about "Disability in the Agriculture Workplace."

AgrAbility staff met with the AgriSafe Network to discuss new project goals and potential partnerships.



BattleGround to Breaking Ground staff held a two-day event for Skillbridge (STP) participants covering topics such as farm safety, value-added products, equine management and more.

BattleGround to Breaking Ground staff hosted a webinar covering the application process for a tuition waiver to cohort 13, which begins in January.

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah staff presented and answered questions about AgrAbility for the staff of Options for Independence on October 3. Options for Independence is an Independent Living Center that serves the counties of Rich, Box Elder, and Cache in northern Utah.

On Oct. 12, AgrAbility staff visited with the staff of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation in Ibapah, Utah, and informed them about AgrAbility and gave them brochures for their office. The Confederated Goshute Tribe has over 600 members and their reservation is in West Central Utah.

AgrAbility staff visited the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation headquarters in Ogden, UT, on Oct. 17 and educated them about AgrAbility and gave them brochures for their office. The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation has 620 members in Northern Utah and Southeastern Idaho.

On Oct. 18-19, AgrAbility staff presented and set up a booth at the Central Utah Grazing Expo that was held at two different locations. The first day was in Richfield, UT, and the second day was in Price, UT, and was attended by many ranchers in central Utah.

AgrAbility of Utah staff presented virtually and answered questions about AgrAbility for the staff of Active Re-Entry on Oct. 26. Active Re-Entry is an Independent Living Center that serves the seven counties of eastern Utah. The seven counties within the service district include: Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan.

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia was a popular topic for many audiences during the month of October. The team presented about AgrAbility to a range of groups, including: [More](#)

Program Coordinator Garland Mason was invited to present virtually to Virginia Tech University CALS alumnus, where she shared how AgrAbility assists farmers and gardeners across the state. [More](#)

The team finished off the month with an in-person advisory group meeting, filled with vibrant discussion, networking, and planning for the next year.

Washington

WA State AgrAbility Program (WSAP) confirmed the continuation of their AgrAbility grant for year four.

In November, WRASAP team members will be presenting and/or exhibiting at the Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association, Washington Tilth Conference, Washington Grain Growers Conference, and the Western Region AgrAbility Conference in Reno, Nevada.

The WSAP team created a video to highlight the difference that AgrAbility has made in client Deb Eidsness's life. The video can be viewed at https://youtu.be/NHoy3J_4tVs.

New staff completed three successful home visits in October and currently have one scheduled home visit for November.

International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa

Social interaction opportunities, the capacity to live independently, and contributing to different aspects of society are limited when a person's mobility is restricted. AgrAbility for Africa's mission is to eradicate obstacles that limit comfort and independent living through partnerships and collaborations. [More](#)



Across Africa, close to 100% of persons with disabilities are unemployed or are outside the work force, and those that are employed receive little or no monetary remuneration. This is because they are seen as adding little value to the organizations. [More](#)

Staff Changes and Recognition

Texas

BattleGround to Breaking Ground is pleased to welcome Heidi Barber to the program as a program coordinator! Heidi started with the program as a participant in cohort 4 before becoming the farm manager for FEAT, one of our training farms. We are excited that Heidi



will be continuing with the program in her new role as program coordinator.

Washington

The Washington State AgrAbility Program (WSAP) hired Alyssa Wade and Emily Whittier to fill the full-time benefited AgrAbility/farm stress/suicide prevention AP co-coordinators positions. They will move from part-time to full-time beginning December 1st. This change will take us from four part-time co-coordinators to two full-time and two part-time co-coordinators. We look forward to seeing everyone in March at the NTW. In the meantime, Go Cougs!

Wisconsin

Congratulations to Richard "Dick" Straub on receiving the 2022 Distinguished Service Award from the University of Wisconsin College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dick has a 40-year career with the biological systems engineering department and was the PI for the AgrAbility of Wisconsin program. Thanks for all your help and support over the years!



AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Grown Here at Home: Bland County farmer with cerebral palsy gets help from AgrAbility Virginia](#) (AgrAbility Virginia)
- [AgriLife Extension offers new online Agriculture Production Bootcamp](#) (Texas AgrAbility)
- [Michigan Rehabilitation Services promotes National Disability Workplace Awareness Month](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Gardening Across the Lifespan Workshop](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)

Other News

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

- [P.H.A.R.M. Dog USA continues to assist farmers and ranchers with disabilities by providing service dogs, most recently in Oklahoma and Georgia](#)
 - [Talking Total Farmer Health - "Health Insurance"](#)
 - [Dairy producers may now enroll for 2023 signup for Dairy Margin Coverage](#)
 - [USDA announces \\$1 billion debt relief for 36,000 farmers](#)
 - [Southern Minnesota farmers step up big time for injured neighbor: "It's pretty amazing"](#)
 - [Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in Ag Risk and Price Loss Coverage Programs](#)
 - [USDA ANNOUNCES TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM \(TOPP\) REGIONS AND LISTENING SESSION ON MARKET DEVELOPMENT](#)
 - [Registration & housing open Nov. 15 for 2023 Commodity Classic in Orlando](#)
 - [Nationwide unveils HAYTECH hands-free hay monitoring first for U.S. customers](#)
 - [Keeping a farm in the family takes planning](#)
 - [The People's Party: When farmers formed a political party](#)
-

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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November 2022

National AgrAbility Project

The National AgrAbility Project helped staff the AgrAbility booth again this year at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. Chuck Baldwin (NAP) worked there with Annie Klahn of AgrAbility of Wisconsin for a couple of days. This year's World Dairy Expo also set a new record for the number of animals housed during the event. The previous record, set in 2008, was 2,657 animals; the 2022 show housed 2,663.



The crowds were also large - 54,525 total tickets sold of which 1,375 attendees were international with the top five countries being Mexico, Canada, Germany, Brazil, and Columbia. There were an additional 37,614 unique viewers via digital-EXPOTV with the top five viewing countries being USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, and India. A full event summary can be read by clicking [HERE](#).



One memorable moment at the AgrAbility booth came when a young boy of about 11 stopped to look at the table-top model of a tractor with a lift on it provided by AgrAbility of WI. He turned excitedly to his parents and said, "Mom and Dad! This tractor has a lift on it that could really help Grandpa get into his tractor!" The couple explained that their son worked regularly alongside his grandpa and often had to assist the older man in getting onto or off of the tractor. However, if his grandpa fell getting down, he was too small to break the fall. They were excited about what they saw at the exhibit and took some literature, saying they would contact AgrAbility later.

Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

The National AgrAbility Project participated with the SAY Group in a safety exhibit at the 2022 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Convention attendance was estimated at over 63,000 FFA members, advisors, and family members. Safety groups represented included Gearing Up for Safety, the National Farm Medicine Center/National Children's Center, CareerSafe, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, AgriSafe, The Ohio State Safety Program, the Grain Handling Safety Council, University of Illinois safety program, Progressive Agriculture Foundation, Central States Center for Ag Safety and Health at the University of Nebraska, Penn State Safety Program, and the Utah State University Safety Program.



Submitted by Steve Swain

November 2022

Alaska

The AKAgrAbility team has been busy following up with current clients and working to hire and expand the team to assist with increased engagement of the project. In addition, the Alaska project is partnering heavily with the Alaska Farm Bureau to have an increased presence at the 2nd Annual Alaska Farm Bureau & Trade Show in November. The Alaska Farm Bureau has also paired up with the Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to provide technical presentations for those working in agriculture during the event. The event is meant to bring awareness to agriculture from all aspects to educate the general public, those working in agriculture, and decision makers. The event runs three days and is filled with vendor booths, youth activities from 4-H & FAA, and has three concurrent track sessions throughout the weekend. There is a dinner banquet with a live action scheduled on Friday night to raise funds for scholarships, and a live concert (Farm Stock) on Saturday night featuring Jenny Tolman.

Art Nash, Jonathan Kamler (Ph.D. candidate in the UAF-Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Extension) and Debu Misra had a town hall style discussion with the attendees of the Alaska Rural Water Association meeting at the end of October. Although the topic of discussion involved water-based contamination, during the introductory presentation, the AgrAbility project was introduced to the participants.

Submitted by DeShana York

November 2022

California

California AgrAbility Program (affiliate) staff were invited to present "A History of AgrAbility in California" for the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Sutter-Yuba office outreach staff. Program staff was a keynote guest during their Hispanic Heritage and Disability Awareness Month joint celebration event. The presentation highlighted cases of farmers and farmworkers that were referred from the Sutter-Yuba EDD office to California AgrAbility. After several postponements due to COVID-19 surges, program staff was honored to have been asked to present at this celebration event as they [BCF1] have had a long-standing relationship with EDD.



As part of the Puentes Network, California AgrAbility participated in the Knights Landing Fall Health Fair. Attendees were offered free health exams and took part in cooking and gardening demos. There were raffles, smoothie and espresso bars, and informational booths where attendees could obtain information about various resources offered by Yolo County agencies and organizations. This was the second of two health fairs presented by the Puentes Network this year.

California AgrAbility will be hosting the upcoming Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) Network Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, December 8th. Guest speaker Clinton Wilson, program director for AgWell, a project of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, will be presenting "Building Community, Collaborations, and Trust." The presentation will highlight the ways in which people can model the community that they want to help grow in agriculture communities, and how collaborative synergy creates a greater impact than the sum of the individual work. Clinton will also be discussing the importance of building relationships with - and within - agricultural communities. [Register here](#) to join this free webinar. The last day to register is Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

Submitted by Angelina Padilla

November 2022

Colorado

The Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) and Colorado State University Extension (CSUE) are looking for four full-time regional Extension behavioral health specialists to work with the CAP team to provide in-the-field stress management information and education to farmers and ranchers, to prevent emergencies including suicide, to be innovative in addressing the reluctance of many farmers and ranchers to seek and follow through with counseling, and to provide training for rural behavioral health providers and community stakeholders.

REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in a behavioral/mental health field
- Clinical experience working with clients in crises
- Driving is an essential function of this position. Candidates must have proof of a valid Colorado driver's license and the ability to be insured, or the ability to obtain a driver's license by the employment start date.

These positions have not posted yet. For more information or application access please contact:

Chad Reznicek MA, LPC at chad.reznicek@colostate.edu 970-744-9011

The First Annual Colorado Agricultural Behavioral Health and Well-being Summit was held on September 28th-29th. AgWell had the privilege of hosting the summit of organizations that serve the behavioral health needs of Colorado's farmers, ranchers, ag workers, and rural communities. Twelve organizations from all corners of the state came together to share their work and resources. Through collaboration and conversation, they tackled complicated issues such as substance abuse, suicide prevention, stress management, and other difficult topics that affect the well-being of agricultural communities. Colorado AgrAbility feels honored to be working with such dedicated and thoughtful organizations on these issues. Over the next few weeks, staff will be using social media outlets to highlight each of the twelve organizations that attended the Summit, but anyone interested in learning more right away can follow the links below!



A huge thank you to each and every one of the organizations that joined with CO AgrAbility, and another thank you to [Guidestone Hutchinson Ranch](#) for providing a space to come together! Behavioral Health and Well-being Summit attendees included: AgWell, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Farm Bureau, Southeast Health Group, La Plata Family Centers Coalition, AgrAbility, Land Logic, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Western Sports Foundation, Western Region Stress Assistance Program, Farm Aid.

Submitted by Jim Craig

November 2022

Florida

Florida's first-ever AgrAbility project has been initiated by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida (CILNCF). The CILNCF is a non-profit disability resource center serving people of all ages and disabilities for over 40 years. Florida AgrAbility is hiring a case coordinator who will be the key staff for the program.

Florida AgrAbility attended the Extension Professionals Association of Florida Conference at the end of August. This was an opportunity to briefly introduce the AgrAbility project to the Extension professionals. Georgia AgrAbility invited Florida AgrAbility to the Sunbelt Ag Expo in October. Georgia AgrAbility provided information on their program and Florida AgrAbility staff met with many potential clients during the expo.

Submitted by Florida AgrAbility Project

November 2022

Georgia



Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the 2022 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo. Staff were very excited to have the University of Florida join them this year! The exhibit included companies that produce or sell assistive



technology used by farmers with disabilities, resources for farmers and ranchers experiencing stress, and a tractor PTO safety and tractor rollover simulator shown by Dr. Serap Gorucu of the University of Florida. The Sunbelt Ag Expo consists of over 1,200 exhibitors who showcase the latest in farming technology over a 100-acre exhibitor area along with a 600-acre working research farm.

Additionally, over 300 seminars and demonstrations are offered over the course of the three-day event. Georgia AgrAbility staff spoke with many members of the farming community - not just from Georgia, but from many of the states in the



Southeast.

Georgia AgrAbility is thankful to P.H.A.R.M. DOG USA for providing a dog to one of its clients. P.H.A.R.M. DOG USA brought the dog and trained the farmer on October 25-27. The farmer instantly bonded with the dog named Skippy. Skippy has already improved how easily the farmer can work his cattle herd. The Georgia staff cannot thank Jackie Allenbrand and the team with P.H.A.R.M. DOG USA enough!



The Shepherd Center Hospital is GA AgrAbility's non-profit partner. The hospital has started a tool checkoff program that evaluates a patient's tool use after a brain injury. AgrAbility staff helped to train therapists at the Shepherd Center on how to use power tools safely. AgrAbility also showed the therapists different adaptations that can be made to tools for the patients to continue to use them. The training was a week-long program from October 24th-28th.

Georgia AgrAbility will be hosting a tractor safety and driving workshop in Blairsville, Georgia, November 4th. The workshop will be for both new and experienced tractor operators to learn and practice safe tractor operating procedures. The workshop will include morning classroom type instruction followed by an afternoon of attaching implements, going over basic tractor maintenance and operating a tractor through a course designed to allow operators to complete various driving scenarios on a closed course with an instructor.

Submitted by AgrAbility in Georgia

November 2022

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility held its second semi-annual advisory team meeting at Purdue's ADM building October 12th. Twenty people attended in-person and one advisor via Zoom. Items of business or discussion included, among others:



- A new versatile lift from LifeLyfts by Life Essentials
- A successful fund-raiser for the FFA
- The upcoming AT loan library for AgrAbility to manage at Purdue's West Lafayette campus
- IN AgrAbility's work with the AgVets project
- Joe Ricker's (IN and NAP veterans outreach coordinator) work with the Indiana Farmer Veteran Coalition and Senator Braun's open houses across the state
- Kimber Nicoletti's Hispanic/Latino outreach work in Indiana
- John Jamerson's work with the Black Loam Conferences geared toward helping urban farmers/gardeners in Indiana's major cities understand and access more USDA services
- IN AgrAbility's new website that Paul Jones has been working on
- Outreach to Indiana's Amish/Old Order farmers
- An upcoming AT Roundup

Participation by all the members was in high gear and many practical suggestions were offered by the advisors and consultants - much appreciated by the IN AgrAbility staff!

Submitted by Chuck Baldwin

November 2022

Missouri



Since the beginning of the new school year, Missouri AgrAbility implemented six 4-H Save Your Brain SPIN Clubs in three counties and reached 413 youth. Staff currently are in the process of recruiting new Save Your Brain ambassadors for this 4-H program year.



Missouri also had a couple local businesses who purchased shirts for the ambassadors, volunteers, and staff members who teach the 4-H Save Your Brain curriculum authored by 4-H Missouri, BIA MO,

and Missouri AgrAbility. Brad Bell Logging, Tommi Alcorn (FNP), and Windmill Hill Farms graciously sponsored these shirts and some of the supplies needed for programs this fall. Supplies included eggs, pumpkins (used in place of watermelons for the "Don't Crack Your Melon" activity), paper products, snacks, and more. Staff also offered two trainings for volunteers and teen leaders this past month and will host another training next week. Additionally, MO AgrAbility established partnerships with three new school districts to offer 4-H Save Your Brain over the next six weeks.



David Middleton, MO AgrAbility consultant, attended the Hermann FFA Farm Safety Day on behalf of MU Extension Missouri AgrAbility and educated 80 students on power take-off safety. He also participated in the Missouri AgrAbility/MU Extension booth at the Ozark Fall Farmfest, October 7-9. The Ozark fall Farmfest is held annually on the first weekend of October at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield, Missouri. With over 1,000 agricultural and rural living exhibits and more than 600 head of registered livestock on display, it has become the Ozark's largest event with over 60,000 agriculture enthusiasts in attendance over three days.

Missouri AgrAbility staff participated in the "Implementing Home Modifications in a Community-Based Setting" given by Emily Somerville. Emily is a faculty member at Washington University in the OT Department. She delivered home modifications and interventions for participants in the home and rural/urban communities with a variety of health conditions. Emily addressed best-practices for the home modification process and identified community partners for home modification delivery.

Submitted by Emily Doosing, David Middleton, and Karen Funkenbusch



Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP) outreach workers utilized the Jessup Wagon 2.0 to provide an extending-the-growing-season train-the-trainer workshop for the Barry County Missouri Master Gardeners. They also assisted MU Extension's Missouri AgrAbility



and 2501 Program with a high tunnel workshop for an urban veteran AgrAbility client farmer in Spanish Lake.

Submitted by Mary Bolling

Missouri AgrAbility was highlighted during the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Annual Statewide Conference through a presentation by Karen Funkenbusch, Missouri AgrAbility PI. Missouri AgrAbility was featured as the Rural Track sponsor with recognition as part of the conference welcome, event program, exhibit hall, and signage at these events.

Maureen Cunningham with BIA-MO shared successes of Missouri AgrAbility with brain injury program managers from across the country during an Access to Service workgroup of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Grant federal program. Discussion included that brain injury is not a one-time event or final outcome; instead, that it can lead to and magnify various disabilities. Also highlighted was the importance of providing brain injury-related support and education for AgrAbility client farmers with diagnosed and undiagnosed brain injuries as well as marketing AgrAbility as a resource for farmers with brain injury.

Submitted by Maureen Cunningham

November 2022

Nebraska

Emily Jacobson set up at the YMCA Fieldhouse in Norfolk, Nebraska, for "Amazing Morning." The event was hosted by Northeast Nebraska Down Syndrome Association. It was well attended with over 100 families! Emily shares that it was exciting to be at the event and have an opportunity to share all of NE AgrAbility's programs within Easterseals!



Nebraska AgrAbility features several stories and case studies on the [web site](#). Added October 19: "Couple True Partners in Fulfilling Dreams" by Kerry Hoffschneider who shares how a Nebraska farm family was able to continue pursuing their dreams when husband, Randy, benefitted from resource coordination from Nebraska AgrAbility. Through these efforts, Randy was able to secure an electric power livestock trailer jack and is working on getting a modified tractor seat. Read more [HERE](#).

Submitted by Soni Cochran

November 2022

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility staff were recently reminded of how farmers benefit from AgrAbility services and how pieces of equipment, both simple and complex, impact productivity. Ohio farmers Steve and Julie McFalls attended the Farm Science Review in September and were effusive in their praise of the new equipment Steve had received from Ohio's vocational rehabilitation agency Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Steve and Julie farm specialty hay. Steve's disability makes it very difficult for him to work long hours or consecutive days, and the jolting and vibration of a tractor takes a toll on him. He has an Airhawk inflatable seat cushion that reduces the vibration and his pain. He uses the seat cushion on his padded tractor seats, and recently used the seat cushion while watching the tractor pull at the county fair. He gets great benefit from this simple piece of equipment. The complex equipment Steve uses are an accumagrapple and hay accumulator for baling hay. Julie stated that in the past, she would have to recruit people to help bale hay. Sometimes they could not get enough help, and they had to leave some hay in the field. This year Steve and Julie used the accumagrapple and were able to put up over 555 bales of hay by themselves in just one weekend. Steve reported that he did not have lingering pain and immobility from the work, and his grin lit up the whole exhibit area. Julie said if it was not for the new equipment, they would not have been able to continue farming. [See the full video interview here.](#)



Submitted by Laura Akgerman

November 2022

Pennsylvania



Staff members Linda Fetzer and Abbie Spackman and an AgrAbility PA farmer presented to the Penn State Extension Women Rooted in Ag group. The session is available on the [PSU Extension website](#). Attendees included farmers from Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region. The presentation focused on AgrAbility, farm safety, seeking support, and the farmer's success.

Abbie attended the [PA Farm Link](#) advisory board meeting held at [Grow Pittsburgh's Braddock Farms](#). Part of the meeting was spent touring the urban farm that thrives next to an operational steel mill and within view of Kennywood amusement park. The farm focuses on education and providing produce to the local community. Abbie learned about the [garden tool lending library operated by Grow Pittsburgh](#) to encourage and create access to community and home gardening.



Staff member Kendra Martin participated in several opportunities to highlight AgrAbility PA during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October) including:

- posting on social media for the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair (VSF)
- exhibiting at the Harrisburg State Capitol for a disability service provider event organized by PA State Senator Tina Tartaglione and fellow legislators
- engaging on social media with Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture who posted and shared AgrAbility PA's video of dairy farmer Chelsi Schultz with its more than 41k followers



Submitted by Kendra Martin

November 2022

Tennessee

TN AgrAbility in collaboration with the TN Department of Human Services celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month by co-hosting the Resource Ability Assistive Technology Access Fair in Lebanon, TN. This annual event showcased the importance of assistive technology in the lives of people with different abilities. The Fair helped promote partnerships between TN AgrAbility, TN Technology Access Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of TN who all help farmers to continue to make a living doing what they love. Special thanks to keynote speaker Carey Portell, a champion and friend of AgrAbility who shared her experiences of breaking through limitations after significant injuries and life in the agricultural arena, and to [Marty Cotterman with LifeLyfts](#) for demonstrating various ag lifts and mobility options.



Submitted by TN AgrAbility

November 2022

Virginia

AgrAbility Virginia was a popular topic for many audiences during the month of October. The team presented about AgrAbility to a range of groups, including: Appalachian Center for Independent Living, veterans hospital disability fair, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, Brunswick County SFOP group, and staff even hosted a "Feeling Good in the Garden and on the Farm" event for community members.

Program Coordinator Garland Mason was invited to present virtually to Virginia Tech University CALS alumnus, where she shared how AgrAbility assists farmers and gardeners across the state. Virginia Tech's development office assisted by coordinating the presentation with the launch of a fundraising campaign to fund assistive technology for farmers in need. Additionally, a news station in Roanoke, Virginia, highlighted AgrAbility on their newscast with a feature story.

Submitted by AgrAbility Virginia

November 2022

AgrAbility for Africa



Social interaction opportunities, the capacity to live independently, and contributing to different aspects of society are limited when a person's mobility is restricted. AgrAbility for Africa's mission is to eradicate obstacles that limit comfort and independent living through partnerships and collaborations. Great appreciation to Duncan R. Burris - (ARSOBO), Parent-Johnson, Wendy and Hughes, and Peter T of Arizona University for the support to advance this mission through the donation of the two RoughRider wheelchairs to AgrAbility for Africa clients in

Uganda. The chairs will be passed on to the beneficiaries at no cost. With AT access challenges across Africa, it is extremely exciting news and empowering to own a wheelchair.

Across Africa, close to 100% of persons with disabilities are unemployed or are outside the work force, and those that are employed receive little or no monetary remuneration. This is because they are seen as adding little value to the organizations. Burris R. Duncan's (Sonoran UCEDD - ARSOBO) theory of change works with people with disabilities to build AT technologies for those who need them to help earn a living wage. AgrAbility for Africa staff is in talks with Duncan to expand the program to Uganda; not only to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities, but also to increase access to AT by using people with disabilities to build assistive technologies for people in Africa.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

November 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** QPR for Farmers and Farm Families
Dates November 16, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EST
City, State Webinar Online Training
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.agrisafe.org/event/qpr-for-farmers-and-farm-families-11/>
- Name** Falls Prevention in Older Adults
Dates November 17, 2022, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BCAXnwU_QuGRp6yX0C2nw
- Name** 2022 Farmer and Farmland Owner Income Tax Webinar
Dates November 17, 2022, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. EST
City, State Webinar Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/tax/farmer-and-farmland-owner-income-tax-webinar>
- Name** LATINO FARMER CONFERENCE
Dates November 17-18, 2022
City, State Escondido, California
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.ncat.org/latino-farmer-conference/>
- Name** Nevada Regional AgrAbility Workshop
Dates November 29 - December 1, 2022
City, State Reno, Nevada
Contact <http://www.agrability.org/training-events/in-person/>

**Info/Web
link**

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://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/application-battleground-to-breaking-ground/01t4x000002ciPrAAI>

Name North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association Conference

Dates January 22-24, 2023

City, State Tampa, Florida

**Contact
Info/Web
link** <https://www.raspberrylblackberry.com/2023-narba-conference/>

Name Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show

Dates February 1-3, 2023

City, State New Orleans, Louisiana

**Contact
Info/Web
link** <https://convention.ncba.org/>

Name 2023 Commodity Classic

Dates March 9-11, 2023

City, State Orlando, Florida

**Contact
Info/Web
link** <https://commodityclassic.com/>