

AgrAbility e•Note

January 2023

A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

Happy 2023!

Plan to join the AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting January 25 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Look for details in an email coming soon.

NTW registration is open! For anyone who has been putting it off, it is time to start thinking about the NTW. Here are some things to do:



- Register for the NTW. [Click HERE](#) to go to the NTW website and get more detailed information. The registration link is on the registration tab.
- Reserve a hotel room. [Click HERE](#) to go to the hotel reservation page. It is also available on the hotel tab on the NTW website, where one can find more information and the link to reserve a room. **The room block closes on February 21st, so don't miss out.**
- Anyone who knows of someone that might like to be an exhibitor or a sponsor should send them this link for the [NTW tab on the NAP website](#) and tell them to click on the Exhibitor or Sponsor tab, or send their contact information to Tess-tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org.
- Put together a SRAP raffle basket and/or collect auctions items. Both activities help to bring farmer clients to the NTW. Items can be shipped ahead of time to Kimberly Lengerich at 8615 N. Lehman Rd. Spokane, WA 99217. Please indicate somewhere on the packaging that it is for the AgrAbility NTW auction or raffle basket and let Kim know that an item is being shipped to her. Her email is kjdevries@wsu.edu, and her phone number is 360-333-1067.

For any questions about the NTW, contact Tess at tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

Currently, no upcoming regional workshops are scheduled, but AgrAbility staff would love to host one with anyone interested. If interested, please contact Tess tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org or JoBeth jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org, for more information.

AgrAbility monthly Zoom discussion on "Crowdfunding for AgrAbility, Nonprofits, and Others," Tuesday, January 24 at 3:00 p.m. ET. The URL was sent via the listserv.



The National AgrAbility Advisory Team met in Indianapolis and virtually December 13-14. Twenty-seven advisors, staff, and consultants participated. The Advisory Team is an important source of feedback and guidance for the NAP.

Carey Portell from NAP partner AgriSafe interviewed Paul Jones for the Talking Total Farmer Health podcast. Listen to the discussion of AgrAbility's mission and services at agrisafe.org/podcasts/talking-total-farmer-health.

Joe Ricker and Ned Stoller attended the Hivelife 2023 Beekeeping Conference in Sevierville, TN, on January 6-7. This event had over 1,500 beekeepers from across the nation gathered to discuss beekeeping. [More](#)



Toolbox Spotlight



Workers with impairments can push their chicken tractor pens to fresh pasture with this [Chicken Tractor Wheeled Lift Kit](#). The kit comes with four wheels, two rear lift-lever assemblies, two front corner gussets, a front lever bracket, and a front lift-axle assembly. Foot power is used to

lift/lower the wheels at the back corners. The two-wheeled front handle dolly allows one to lift and steer while moving. The front pedal raises up and latches the unit; and the rear pedal unlatches and lowers it back to the ground.

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

California (affiliate)

California AgrAbility staff continue to operate the AgrAbility program in California to support farmers and farmworkers as much as possible. With limited capacity, this month and the coming months, the program will continue to dedicate resources to serve program participants directly.

California AgrAbility staff, supported by the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP), attended the Washington State Tree Fruit Association Annual Meeting. [More](#)

As an active member of the Puentes Network, California AgrAbility participated in the monthly meeting with other Yolo County organizations and agencies. [More](#)

Florida

The case coordinator conducted the first farm-site assessment for Florida AgrAbility on December 21st in Wachula, Florida.

Florida AgrAbility received IRB approval from the University of Florida to collect data from outreach and evaluation activities. This was an essential step for the three undergraduate student interns acquired through UF's Active Learning Program that will be working with AgrAbility staff through Spring 2023.

Florida AgrAbility's IT specialist continued development of features and accessibility on the project website, including links to the recently established social media accounts [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Conference on December 4th and 5th. The conference had over 1,400 farmers and agri-business leaders from across the state attend to hear about upcoming policy changes and new commodity information and to connect with Georgia's agricultural organizations and agencies. [More](#)



On December 8th, Georgia AgrAbility staff presented to the Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency's (RESA) assistive technology group about AT solutions for farming and gardening. Using the mobile learning lab, Georgia AgrAbility demonstrated various types of AT; [More](#)

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility staffed a display at the 2022 Indiana Equipment & Technology Expo at Grand Park in Westfield, Indiana. The show was sponsored by Hoosier Ag Today, John Deere, Reynolds Farm Equipment, and AgriFinance, and was attended by over 5,000 visitors. [More](#)



Missouri

Missouri AgrAbility focused its social media efforts on program promotion, opportunities for farmers and health, safety, and winter wellness and disability tips. Please make sure to like and follow Missouri AgrAbility, @MOAgrAbility, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Programming slowed down during the month of December for Missouri AgrAbility. 4-H Save Your Brain ambassadors rang the Salvation Army bell during the holiday season and handed out the 4-H Save Your Brain and Missouri AgrAbility info sheets... [More](#)

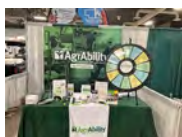
Missouri AgrAbility team members continued to assist John Fuller, MU Extension field specialist in human development, with planning the Ag Connect conference, "Connecting Farmers Back to their Roots," which will take place January 20 - January 21,... [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility team members also continued to work with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and Veteran Urban Farm for an upcoming [Armed to Farm Conference](#), April 10-14, in Columbia, Missouri. [More](#)

St. Louis area professionals learned about Missouri AgrAbility during the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Networking Coffee for Professionals on December 6. [More](#)

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) Board of Directors learned about the Missouri AgrAbility and BIA-MO partnership from Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO executive director and BIAA board member. [More](#)

Nebraska



Nebraska AgrAbility team members Emily Jacobson, Rod Peterson, and John Davis attended the Nebraska Ag Expo in Lincoln. This three-day event was well-attended by farmers and ranchers from Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas. [More](#)

Emily Jacobson reports that an AgrAbility client took his new truck to Life Essentials so it could be fitted with a truck lift. He is loving his new lift and the freedom it gives him on the farm.

Due to a December blizzard, the Nebraska AgrAbility team cancelled plans to meet in-person for a planning session. The team is rescheduling for early 2023 as this is an important opportunity for the team to reflect on 2022, evaluate resources, and plan for 2023.

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.

The final report for the 2018-2022 grant to NIFA was completed and submitted before the deadline!

The NM AgrAbility team will be drafting a newsletter to publicize their efforts this year.

NM AgrAbility staff did submit for two online CEU events to market NM AgrAbility, and they are awaiting a response from the NM PT and OT boards.

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility Project staff presented an overview of AgrAbility services to occupational and physical therapists and rehabilitative medicine providers at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's (OSUWMC) Dodd Hall and Martha Morehouse rehabilitation centers. [More](#)



Pennsylvania



Greetings in 2023! From Pennsylvania to your state, Happy New Year!

The AgrAbility PA staff held a retreat in early December. The goals of the retreat included assessing the current standing of grant objectives, combing through feedback provided by the Advisory Board this fall at the annual meeting, and setting goals for the future. [More](#)

AgrAbility PA was positively excited to be included in the Winter 2022 issue of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Positively Pennsylvania. The four-page article highlighted the project, services, and support, as well as farmer success stories from across the state.

Historically, the month of December has meant looking forward to the month of January where Pennsylvania hosts two major farm show events within the first full week of the new year at the same time. [More](#)

Staffer Abbie Spackman presented to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Urban Ag Sub-committee information about AgrAbility, accessibility, assistive technology, and working with farmers who have disabilities. [More](#)

AgrAbility staff participated in an Amish-focused outreach day and made a great connection with the Central Pennsylvania Clinic, "a medical home for special children and adults" (primarily members of the Amish community with

genetic disorders). [More](#)



South Carolina

South Carolina AgrAbility is in full swing to get established in South Carolina and start planning for future events. Staff members are establishing an advisory board by contacting those interested in participating. [More](#)

South Carolina AgrAbility is also designing and building a display to be used at activities to both promote and educate those in the state who would benefit from its services.

South Carolina AgrAbility is working with Clemson University's Institutional Review Board to obtain approval to collect data and develop a database of those interested in the program.

South Carolina AgrAbility presented a short introductory presentation at the Clemson/SC State Extension Conference on December 7 to increase the SC Extension staff's awareness of the program.

Tennessee

TN AgrAbility Team wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2023!



TNAP exhibited at the TN Farm Bureau Annual Conference and attended meetings with great networking.

TNAP co-hosted an informational Zoom about Southern Ag Exchange-Tennessee (SAG-E-TN). It is TN's "chapter" of the overall farm stress initiative in the southern region. SAG-E-TN goals: [More](#)

TNAP participated in and recommends watching the archived webinar with Chad Resnick of Colorado AgrAbility [Corn, Cattle, and a Flask of Whiskey: Understanding stress and substance use in agricultural and rural populations](#) - National AgrAbility Project.

TN AgrAbility team, UT/TSU Extension, and non-profit partner The STAR Center participated in Zoom trainings on December 14 and 15 for the UT Center for Literacy, Education & Employment to a group of community rehabilitation service providers. [More](#)

Several of TNAP's #AssistiveTechnology team members - Jennifer, Joey, and Lindsey - attended, presented, and exhibited at the Tennessee Association for Assistive Technology (TAAT) Conference in Franklin, TN. Thank you to Transition Tennessee Vanderbilt University for the opportunity!

"If I was a chicken, I would like it." This statement was made by Sydney Maitland as he received a late Christmas present before 2022 ended. He received three chicken tractors to begin his new poultry farm enterprise with assistance from... [More](#)



The holidays are a stressful time for everyone. Regardless of whether or not one is living with disabilities or the different kinds of holidays one observes, this season is filled with demanding tasks. These high stress times often leave those with disabilities feeling like they have no outlet for the anxiety they may be experiencing. [More](#)

Eileen Legault was asked to serve on the National AgrAbility advisory team and will serve as one of the state AgrAbility members from 2022-23 (August - July) for a one-year term. The advisory team provides feedback on National activities and direction. [More](#)



2022 marked 25 years of service for Joetta T White, UT TSU Extension area specialist, with the TN AgrAbility Project. Joetta began her career in 1997 with TNAP.

Texas

Texas AgrAbility is hosting a lunch & learn webinar "Funding for Agricultural Assistive Technology" on January 18th. [More](#)

Texas AgrAbility will be attending and presenting at the Texas Farm Ranch and Wildlife Expo, February 21 & 22, in Abilene, Texas.

Texas AgrAbility met with the project advisory committee to review quarterly grant plans, connect with farmer groups, and provide input on grant objectives and progress.

Utah (affiliate)

AgrAbility of Utah (AoU) staff attended the Utah Cattleman's Association annual convention in Salt Lake City on Dec. 1 and set up a booth. Staff was able to visit with many of the 90 participants from across the state.

On Dec. 8, AgrAbility of Utah held its annual advisory board meeting in Logan, Utah. The virtual event was attended by 20 people of whom two were producers. AoU appreciates the valuable information and advice that was shared by all.

AgrAbility of Utah staff met online with staff from the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation on Dec. 19 to address any barriers and learn more about each other's organization.

Virginia

During the month of December, AgrAbility Virginia received great exposure within the medical community by presenting information to the VA Arthritis & Falls Prevention Coalition as well as the Community Health Workers Partnership/Institute for Public Health Innovation.

The Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) fundraising campaign for benefit of AgrAbility closed at the end of November. It was a huge success, as the program was able to raise \$8000, including a \$5000 donation from Gorilla Carts. [More](#)

The partnership with Mary Baldwin University health sciences capstone students ended during the month of December. [More](#)

A publication, "What is an Agricultural Exoskeleton," was submitted to Cooperative Extension Publishing and was accepted.

Washington

It has been another industrious month for the Washington AgrAbility co-coordinators who

continued to attend conferences throughout Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, and had tremendous success in outreach to thousands of individuals.

Emily presented about farm stress at a calving workshop that Oregon State University Extension hosted for producers in the Columbia River Gorge. She shared information about AgrAbility during the presentation as well.

Emily, Don, Deb, and Debbie attended the regional AgrAbility workshop in Reno, Nevada. Thanks to Tess for the fantastic job organizing!

Emily and Alyssa were interviewed by the Columbia Basin Herald about the AgrAbility and FRSAN programs.

Deb is assisting a current client with AT options, mental health services, and financial options to improve quality of life.

Alyssa attended the Tri-State Grain Growers Conference in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where she exhibited with AgrAbility and FRSAN for over 600 attendees.

Alyssa and Debbie attended the WA Dairymen's Conference in Grand Mound, WA, and exhibited for over 300 attendees for AgrAbility and FRSAN.

Debbie is building and strengthening relationships statewide with veterans and Native American tribes.

Don has been focusing on aiding Washington's underserved audiences and increasing participation for AgrAbility statewide.

The co-coordinators have two new clients and several more potential clients. Through attending conferences, the co-coordinators have been able to provide numerous AT recommendations as well.

International AgrAbility Network News

AgrAbility for Africa

Often, mobility hurdles exist in reaching island communities across Africa. Through partnerships and collaborations, AgrAbility for Africa is on a mission to lessen the negative impact via the development of water transport vessels. One such vessel, to improve transportation on Lake Victoria, is in its final stages of construction. [More](#)



In 2023, at the NTW in Spokane, Washington, the AgrAbility for Africa staff will share with participants an African disability funding survey. Preparation for the survey structure is complete, and a digital technologies review is taking place to secure a digital host that can run the survey. [More](#)

Staff Changes and Recognition

Missouri

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri and Missouri AgrAbility welcome` Andrew Edmonston as office administrator. Andrew joined the BIA-MO staff on January 3. He will

be responsible for implementing the "Brain Injury Fact of the Day" sponsored by Missouri AgrAbility during March for Brain Injury Awareness Month. His responsibilities also include social media and website marketing as well as Missouri AgrAbility invoicing.

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects.

- [AgrAbility Grant Applications due January 19, 2023](#) (AgrAbility)
 - [How AgrAbility Cultivates Independence for Disabled Hoosier Farmers](#) (Indiana AgrAbility Project)
 - [Clemson and S.C. State collaborate to bring AgrAbility to South Carolina](#) (AgrAbility in South Carolina)
 - [The National AgrAbility Project](#) (National AgrAbility Project)
 - [NOW THAT'S RURAL: Bret Fitzpatrick, AgrAbility](#) (Kansas AgrAbility Project)
 - [Porter Farm story doesn't fit on a sign](#) (Indiana AgrAbility Project)
 - [AgrAbility: Cultivating Independence for People with Disabilities in Agriculture](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
-

Other News

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

- [National Poll Reveals Promising Trends in Rural Opioid Misuse; More Work Needed](#)
 - [Farmer Veteran Coalition Fellowship Fund Application Open Until February 14](#)
 - [Online Curriculum Provides Life-saving Training to Young Farm Workers](#)
 - [NEW GUIDES OUTLINE COVER CROP INITIATIVES, INSURANCE GUIDELINES](#)
 - [USDA expands eligibility, enhances benefits for key disaster programs](#)
 - [Poultry breeder webinar series available on-demand](#)
 - [New toolkit launched to increase market access for underserved specialty crop farmers](#)
 - [NCC Releases Most Comprehensive Guidelines for Poultry Care](#)
 - [Study shows gardening may help reduce cancer risk, boost mental health](#)
 - [The story of 'Snowflake' Bentley, the Vermont farmer who found no two were alike](#)
-

Upcoming Events

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

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

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January 2023

National AgrAbility Project



Joe Ricker and Ned Stoller attended the Hivelife 2023 Beekeeping Conference in Sevierville, TN, on January 6-7. This event had over 1,500 beekeepers from across the nation gathered to discuss beekeeping. The staff managed a table in the vendor area with partner organizations like Heroes for Hives, Mission Beelieve, Charles the Bee Listener, and others that demonstrated adaptive ideas for beekeeping such as the AZ

Hive. Ned conducted a hands-on training for 70 participants that evening to show how to use common items such as the Hivelifter, grip gloves, and other ideas. The staff gathered additional ideas for beekeeping for The Toolbox as well, such as Layen Hives, bucket tilters, horizontal extractors, etc. It was a fabulous event with hundreds of beekeepers reached through a Facebook live event at <https://fb.watch/hX-KUWoXHe/> as well as in-person discussions and interaction.

Submitted by Joe Ricker

January 2023

California

California AgrAbility staff, supported by the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP), attended the Washington State Tree Fruit Association Annual Meeting. Staff presented on farmworker occupational stressors, injury and illness, and farm stress resources. Staff networked with other agency representatives working to support farmworker training and health and safety, including pesticide safety. WRASAP presented both a Spanish and English version of the workshop.

As an active member of the Puentes Network, California AgrAbility participated in the monthly meeting with other Yolo County organizations and agencies. The group discussed leadership roles within the network and the planning of the next in-person conference for fall of 2023. The next meeting will be held in-person at the end of January.

Submitted by Angelina Padilla

January 2023

Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility exhibited at the Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Conference on December 4th and 5th. The conference had over 1,400 farmers and agri-business leaders from across the state attend to hear about upcoming policy changes and new commodity information and to connect with Georgia's agricultural organizations and agencies. This year, speakers included Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, and American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. GA AgrAbility received new clients from the time at this wonderful convention.



On December 8th, Georgia AgrAbility staff presented to the Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency's (RESA) assistive technology group about AT solutions for farming and gardening. Using the mobile learning lab, Georgia AgrAbility demonstrated various types of AT; from tools with better grips and mechanical advantages to off road wheelchairs and tractor seating demonstrations. The participants were able to try out all the equipment to get a better understanding of how assistive

technology can be used for students in their school systems to work in school gardens and have future careers in agriculture, as well as spreading awareness to the communities they live and work in about the AgrAbility Project and its mission.



Submitted by AgrAbility in Georgia

January 2023

Indiana

Indiana AgrAbility staffed a display at the 2022 Indiana Equipment & Technology Expo at Grand Park in Westfield, Indiana. The show was sponsored by Hoosier Ag Today, John Deere, Reynolds Farm Equipment, and AgriFinance, and was attended by over 5,000 visitors. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture sponsored an Ag Career Fair which was well-attended. The exhibit area was sold out. Hoosier Ag Today, a farm media company, broadcasted market reports and interviewed various individuals and companies attending the show. One interview was with Indiana AgrAbility rural rehabilitation specialist Steve Swain. View it at <https://bit.ly/3W64GUV>.



Submitted by Steve Swain

January 2023

Missouri

Programming slowed down during the month of December for Missouri AgrAbility. 4-H Save Your Brain ambassadors rang the Salvation Army bell during the holiday season and handed out the 4-H Save Your Brain and Missouri AgrAbility info sheets about the program to recruit volunteers. They also provided several facts about traumatic brain injury and ways to prevent it, especially during the holidays. For example, safe practices when putting up lights and avoiding drinking and driving on New Year's Eve.

Missouri AgrAbility team members continued to assist John Fuller, MU Extension field specialist in human development, with planning the Ag Connect conference, "Connecting Farmers Back to their Roots," which will take place January 20 - January 21, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Information about Ag Connect is found at <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/ag-connect> or can be followed on Poplar Bluff Ag Connect on Facebook [@agconnectpb/](#).

Missouri AgrAbility team members also continued to work with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and Veteran Urban Farm for an upcoming [Armed to Farm Conference](#), April 10-14, in Columbia, Missouri. [Armed to Urban Farm](#) is a sustainable agriculture training program for military veterans who are new farmers in urban areas. The week-long training will feature classroom trainings, farm tours, and hands-on activities at a variety of successful farms. Farmer veterans learn from seasoned farmers and gain direct experience on livestock, vegetable, fruit, and agritourism operations. Armed to Farm Conference information is found at <https://www.armedtofarm.org>.

Submitted by: MU Extension

St. Louis area professionals learned about Missouri AgrAbility during the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Networking Coffee for Professionals on December 6. Four of the eight participants were first-time attendees after learning about this educational and marketing opportunity during the BIA-MO Annual Statewide Conference in October 2022.

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) Board of Directors learned about the Missouri AgrAbility and BIA-MO partnership from Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO executive director and BIAA board member. This discussion included how brain injury influences various disabilities and how AgrAbility serves farmers and ranchers with a wide variety of disabilities and chronic diseases.

Submitted by: Brain Injury Association of Missouri

January 2023

Nebraska



Nebraska AgrAbility team members Emily Jacobson, Rod Peterson, and John Davis attended the Nebraska Ag Expo in Lincoln. This three-day event was well-attended by farmers and ranchers from Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas. The focus of the AgrAbility booth was on the topic of arthritis. The booth was visited by many of the Expo attendees. Emily, Rod, and John were available to answer questions. They had excellent

questions asked about the types of tools that could benefit farmers and ranchers. Nebraska AgrAbility received a referral from this event.

Submitted by Soni Cochran

January 2023

Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility Project staff presented an overview of AgrAbility services to occupational and physical therapists and rehabilitative medicine providers at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's (OSUWMC) Dodd Hall and Martha Morehouse rehabilitation centers. Staff discussed OAP services and gave attendees a list of questions and background information the providers could use to determine their patients' on-farm activities and work. The attendees appreciated the real-client examples of the ways farmers access equipment how they make modifications to equipment, and the assistive technology and modifications OAP staff suggest to increase safety and ease of use. Examples of seasonal work tasks were explained to give practitioners a sense of scope for what farmers do throughout the year. Tentative plans for a "field trip" were discussed to offer practitioners an opportunity to try OAP's AT, drive a tractor, and understand the size and scale of the equipment farmers use.



Submitted by Laura Akgerman

January 2023

Pennsylvania



Greetings in 2023! From Pennsylvania to your state, Happy New Year!

The AgrAbility PA staff held a retreat in early December. The goals of the retreat included assessing the current standing of grant objectives, combing through feedback provided by the Advisory Board this fall at the annual meeting, and setting goals for the future. It proved to be a worthwhile time for deeper conversations and reflection on the work and purpose of AgrAbility.

Historically, the month of December has meant looking forward to the month of January where Pennsylvania hosts two major farm show events within the first full week of the new year at the same time. The staff spent time in December prepping exhibits and creating display content, which includes a "How to" handout on funding assistive technology.

Staffer Abbie Spackman presented to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Urban Ag Sub-committee information about AgrAbility, accessibility, assistive technology, and working with farmers who have disabilities. Information was also provided on some of the differences and similarities between rural and urban ag as it relates to disability and assistive technology. The committee was excited to learn about AgrAbility and will be working with AgrAbility as they continue to expand their outreach to urban ag communities.

AgrAbility staff participated in an Amish-focused outreach day and made a great connection with the Central Pennsylvania Clinic, "a medical home for special children and adults" (primarily members of the Amish community with genetic disorders). The clinic provides health care, education, and family support for the Plain community across a wide region. AgrAbility PA staff provided information about the services and support available and will be continuing to work with the Central Pennsylvania Clinic in the future.



Submitted by Kendra Martin

January 2023

South Carolina

South Carolina AgrAbility is in full swing to get established in South Carolina and start planning for future events. Staff members are establishing an advisory board by contacting those interested in participating. Staff members have also been busy drafting both digital and written information to distribute at future planned activities. The South Carolina AgrAbility website (<http://www.agrabilitysc.org>) and email (agrability@clemsun.edu) are functional now.

Submitted by South Carolina AgrAbility Project

January 2023

Tennessee

TNAP co-hosted an informational Zoom about Southern Ag Exchange-Tennessee (SAgE-TN). It is TN's "chapter" of the overall farm stress initiative in the southern region. SAgE-TN goals:

1. increase awareness about farm stress
2. increase capacity of professionals to discuss farm stress
3. offer farm stress-related programs and resources to the people in the ag industry.

This does NOT mean those who participate are offering mental health services. TNAP will help with regional in-services in 2023.

TN AgrAbility team, UT/TSU Extension, and non-profit partner The STAR Center participated in Zoom trainings on December 14 and 15 for the UT Center for Literacy, Education & Employment to a group of community rehabilitation service providers. These providers work with people with disabilities through TN Vocational Rehabilitation, The STAR Center, or other assistive technology centers in Tennessee. The purpose of the training was for participants to gain knowledge about TN AgrAbility since many of the providers do not work directly with agriculture producers.

"If I was a chicken, I would like it." This statement was made by Sydney Maitland as he received a late Christmas present before 2022 ended. He received three chicken tractors to begin his new poultry farm enterprise with assistance from TN AgrAbility, UT TSU Extension, MANAGE Program, The STAR Center, TN Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, H & H Farms, TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' ECF program, and Governor Bill Lee's TN Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder. TNAP cannot wait to see the development of Sydney's new business.



The holidays are a stressful time for everyone. Regardless of whether or not one is living with disabilities or the different kinds of holidays one observes, this season is filled with demanding tasks. These high stress times often leave those with disabilities feeling like they have no outlet for the anxiety they may be experiencing. If this is the case, music therapy is a great tool that may help.



The STAR Center, TNAP's non-profit partner, offers board-certified music therapists who are highly trained and eager to help use music therapy for both social engagement and emotional regulation to make hectic times a little less overwhelming. Anyone interested in getting a loved one set up with a music therapist can simply fill out the [online form here](#).

Eileen Legault was asked to serve on the National AgrAbility advisory team and will serve as one of the state AgrAbility members from 2022-23 (August - July) for a one-year term. The advisory team provides feedback on National activities and direction. In December, the NAP advisory team held their

annual meeting in Indianapolis and via Zoom with lots of planning for 2023.



Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project (TNAP)

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January 2023

Texas

Texas AgrAbility is hosting a lunch & learn webinar "Funding for Agricultural Assistive Technology" on January 18th. The guest speaker will be a vocational rehabilitation counselor and supervisor. She will share information on how to get started with vocational rehabilitation and the process for funding assistive technology through VR programs. Anyone interested in attending the webinar can [register here](#).

Submitted by Makenzie Thomas

January 2023

Virginia

The Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) fundraising campaign for benefit of AgrAbility closed at the end of November. It was a huge success, as the program was able to raise \$8000, including a \$5000 donation from Gorilla Carts. CALS development is helping to continue fundraising efforts and has added AgrAbility VA as a highlight for VT Giving Day at the end of February. All funds will go directly to farmers needing AT who are not eligible for other sources of funding or who have urgent needs. The team will develop an application that will allow fair distribution of funds to farmers in need.

The partnership with Mary Baldwin University health sciences capstone students ended during the month of December. As a result, the students provided two draft publications and accompanying flyers ready for staff additions and review. These publications and flyers are aimed at informing physical therapists and occupational therapists about the unique needs of farmers.

Submitted by Virginia AgrAbility Project

January 2023

AgrAbility for Africa

Often, mobility hurdles exist in reaching island communities across Africa. Through partnerships and collaborations, AgrAbility for Africa is on a mission to lessen the negative impact via the development of water transport vessels. One such vessel, to improve transportation on Lake Victoria, is in its final stages of construction.



The expected date for the boat's completion is February 2023. The boat will help achieve our shared mission with stakeholders to assist rural farm families with disabilities, and their communities, through individualized consultative services, boosting awareness of AgrAbility for Africa programs and services, enabling early identification of farmers, farm workers, and their families who are in need of rehabilitation care, and assistive technologies to improve their productivity and quality of life.

In 2023, at the NTW in Spokane, Washington, the AgrAbility for Africa staff will share with participants an African disability funding survey. Preparation for the survey structure is complete, and a digital technologies review is taking place to secure a digital host that can run the survey. The survey is geared towards enhancing the understanding of gaps and opportunities that exist in current rehabilitative care and improving vocational rehabilitation outcomes for farmers, farm workers, and their families across Africa. It will also make assistive technology more accessible to those who need it through data informed advocacy.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

January 2023

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 Funding for agriculture assistive technology
Dates January 18, 2023
City, State Virtual Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://txagrability.tamu.edu/calendar/>

Name QPR for Farmers and Farm Families
Dates January 18, 2023
City, State Virtual Online
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.agrisafe.org/event/qpr-for-farmers-and-farm-families-13/>

Name North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association Conference
Dates January 22-24, 2023
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 Northeast Disability and Agriculture Conference
Dates February 4, 2023
City, State Waterford, Connecticut, and limited online
Contact https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4ygCPEI9_vnkUaFbdSnWmFYu2bbX-

Info/Web [NU_FXUCC3-umOMFABw/viewform](#)
link

Name QPR for Farmers and Farm Families

Dates February 16, 2023

City, State Virtual Online

Contact <https://www.agrisafe.org/event/qpr-for-farmers-and-farm-families-14/>
Info/Web
link

Name Agricultural Outlook Forum

Dates February 23-24, 2023

City, State Arlington, Virginia, and online

Contact https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum?utm_name=
Info/Web
link

Name 2023 Commodity Classic

Dates March 9-11, 2023

City, State Orlando, Florida

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

Name Armed to Farm Conference

Dates April 10-14, 2023

City, State Columbia, Missouri

Contact <https://www.armedtofarm.org/>
Info/Web
link