

# AgrAbility e·Note

**June 2023**

*A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility*

## National AgrAbility Project News

The Veterans in Agriculture Regional Workshop was held at the Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport June 6-8, 2023. This event focused on veterans in farming and programs to support them. There were 51 attendees, including 22 veterans. [More](#)



The next Regional Workshop, "Mālama the Farmer: Caring for Yourself and Each Other", is taking place at the [Grand Nanihoa Hotel](#) in Hawaii, October 17-18, 2023. This workshop is being planned in conjunction with and supported by the Western Regional Agricultural Assistance Program and the University of Hawaii and will focus on behavioral health resources, assistive technology, preventing injury, and business planning. Room reservations can be made by clicking on the hotel name above. Registration is open. More information and the registration link can be found on the NAP website under "Training and Events", or [click here](#).

The National AgrAbility Project would love to host a Regional Workshop with you. Anyone interested, please contact Tess [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org) or JoBeth [jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org) for more information.

The 2024 NTW will be held in Georgia. The planning committee has started meeting to review the proposals from hotels and will determine the location soon. Anyone interested in joining the committee is requested to email Tess at [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org).



NAP recently finalized 14 new "What AgrAbility Means to Me" videos, eight of them having been recorded at the 2023 NTW. You can view all of them at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8F238464E26D7F9D>

NAP partner AgriSafe is offering QPR training on June 21 from 12:00pm - 1:30pm CST. Registration: [QPR for Farmers and Farm Families](#) - AgriSafe Network

The archive of the recent AgrAbility/North Central FR SAN webinar "An Overview of Native American Behavioral Health Issues" is available at [www.agrability.org/training-category/archived](http://www.agrability.org/training-category/archived).

## Toolbox Spotlight

It's heating up out there! A [Portable Personal Worksite Fan](#) provides airflow, ventilation, and cooling for workers. It runs off a rechargeable battery (or cord as back-up option) and is reportedly powerful enough to cool the air up to 40 feet. Depending on make/model and fan speed setting, run time can reportedly vary from 5 to 15 hours on a single charge. Some provide forward-only air flow, others allow 120-, 160-, even 360-degree oscillating and up to nine stopped positions.



## State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

### Colorado



Colorado AgrAbility has expanded into social media! Follow us to stay in touch! You can find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoAgrAbilityProject/>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/coloradoagrability/>) as well as on our website at <https://agrability.colostate.edu/>.

### Florida

Multiple presentations were delivered by Florida AgrAbility staff throughout May to increase awareness of the project and engage with potential partners/clientele. Events included: Hernando County Interagency Council (5/9), Florida Rehabilitation Council (5/9), UF/IFAS Annual Extension Symposium (5/9-5/11).

The FL AgrAbility case coordinator (Lindsey Head) conducted additional key informant interviews with two other states with active AgrAbility programs. Preliminary results are being synthesized by AgrAbility staff. Additionally, the coordinator enrolled in a beekeeping course to better understand and serve this specialized audience in Florida.

### Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility staff presented the Mobile Learning Lab during the Northeast Region Agriculture and Natural Resources Update Meeting for UGA Extension. A group of approximately 35 University of Georgia Extension faculty members participated... [More](#)

The Meet at the Shed Program is continuing to offer workshops for men to come and fellowship with each other. On May 23rd, staff offered a class that taught participants how to make berry-picking baskets using primitive techniques. [More](#)



Members of the Georgia AgrAbility team continue to be a part of the Step-Up Grady community outreach efforts to address the various stressors impacting the lives of people across rural Georgia. Several in attendance highlighted the impacts farmers have locally as well as the many complex issues they face. [More](#)

### Indiana

May 6, Chuck Baldwin presented AgrAbility and staffed a booth at the Black Loam Conference held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Approximately 20 people attended the conference. [More](#)

Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, represented Indiana AgrAbility at the May 20, 2023, Indiana Black Loam Conference held at the historic Madame CJ Walker Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ed joined other ag service agencies in a panel discussion and highlighted AgrAbility's services to underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. [More](#)



The semiannual Indiana AgrAbility advisory team meeting was held Wednesday, May 24, from 10:30 - 2:30 at the FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, Indiana. Twenty-seven people attended. [More](#)

At the end of the spring semester, Paul Jones and Ed Bell teamed-up again to present a lecture on "Understanding Disabilities" to Purdue's AGR 201 Communicating Across Cultures class. Ed never has a problem engaging students in his life story and perspective on disability and agriculture.



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## Maine



As part of Maine AgrAbility's continued outreach to loggers, staff participated in the Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition 2023 in Bangor. Information about AgrAbility was provided and discussions occurred with 89 people during the two-day expo. Two loggers signed up to become clients.

AgrAbility's OTD student conducted outreach at the National Seaweed Symposium which is a convening of key industry, regulatory, academic, and professional leaders in and contributors to, the US seaweed sector. [More](#)



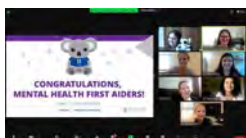
Staff and OTD students provided instruction during five sessions to 130 loggers in Ft. Kent at the Canadian border, focusing on back health through posture, and identifying key areas on the body for loggers to pay attention to in order to reduce musculoskeletal disorders. [More](#)

Boots-2-Bushels hosted two in-person on farm visits focusing on tractor safety, harvest, and wash 'n pack.



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## Missouri



During the month of May, staff members from Missouri AgrAbility, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, rural & urban agriculture stakeholders, and behavioral/mental partners promoted a successful Mental Health Awareness Month statewide campaign. [More](#)

4-H conducted one new Save Your Brain Volunteer training and four new Save Your Brain Teen Ambassador trainings. The University of Missouri Extension (MUE) created the Save Your Brain curriculum (<https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/lg820>) in a joint effort

with the BIA-MO and the Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP)... [More](#)

Save Your Brain Ambassadors championed a fund-raising campaign and received a grant from FCS Financial to make a local, youth building accessible to rural individuals with disabilities. The project has currently raised over \$1,000; construction of a ramp and installation of assistive devices is underway. [More](#)

Missouri AgrAbility initiated a new fee-for-service for contracts with the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Services for the Blind to facilitate customized onsite farmstead assessment with reports.

Missouri AgrAbility and its stakeholders continue to make strong connections and provide accessible beekeeping programs for rural and urban farmers with disabilities.



Mary Bolling from the Lincoln University Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program had a table at the Washington County in Bloom event near Potosi, Missouri on May 13th and shared information on Missouri AgrAbility and the programs available to small farmers in the east central region of Missouri.

Missouri AgrAbility was featured as a program partner for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Survivor and Family Seminar in Southwest Missouri on May 13. More than 75 individuals learned about Missouri AgrAbility and its services for farmers with disabilities, including brain injury.

Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO executive director, also highlighted the Missouri AgrAbility partnership during a discussion about resources with the DHSS Adult Brain Injury Program service coordinators on May 2.

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## Nebraska



Nebraska AgrAbility is hiring a rural rehabilitation specialist. For more information and to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/providing-hope>. Please help us spread the word.

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## New Mexico

The AgrAbility program at Mandy's Farm was featured in KRQE News: <https://www.krqe.com/video/agrability-expands-into-two-year-program-at-mandys-farm/8630449/>. Eight full-time farm apprentices with disabilities are supported by our program partners at Mandy's Farm and AmeriCorps members this growing season.

Using the hashtag #OTLovesFarmers, a UNM OT Student, Marcyanna Rinaldi, has created several video shorts geared at common injuries that food producers may experience: [More](#)

NMAP is continuing to collaborate with the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum for an exhibit in 2024.

New Mexico AgrAbility's TAP program partner (NMTAP) is busy planning a statewide conference that will train NM assistive technology professionals on technology to support activities, including the activities of food producers.

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## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) staff joined OSU Ag Safety and Health at a Farm Bureau safety day event. Staff share resources on AgrAbility and farm

stress/mental health and networked with other exhibitors. [More](#)



OAP staff presented "Gardening as we age - Ideas for adapting" to Master Gardeners in Greene County, and consulted with county staff on ideas to increase accessibility in public gardens.

Ohio farmers are busy with spring planting, and OAP staff are busy assisting farmers with technical assistance, farm visits, assessments, and equipment deliveries.

OAP staff are looking forward to a busy summer of outreach, education and helping Ohio farmers continue to farm safely and productively.

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## South Carolina

This month, the team will continue to work on planning a workshop with some participants from the National AgrAbility Project and the LIFE Project. [More](#)

The AgrAbility team will continue working with Able SC in its commitment to the state in offering the AgrAbility program. [More](#)

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## Tennessee



TN AgrAbility's non-profit partner, The STAR Center in Jackson, TN, recently celebrated 35 years of serving individuals with disabilities. A celebration honoring the founders, Chuck and Margaret Doumitt, was held at Union University on May 11. [Our Story - STAR Center](#)

TN AgrAbility, represented by Eileen Legault along with Susan Turner, outreach specialist for the Progressive Ag Foundation, made a presentation to 17 Extension agents at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers (TAE4-HW) in Knoxville. [More](#)

Therapeutic horticulture is a practice that embraces the healing power of nature to promote physical and emotional well-being. It involves using plants, gardens, and cultivating a sense of connection with nature to help people improve their health, well-being, and quality of life. [More](#)



UT Gardens Education and Horticultural Therapy Program Administrator Derrick Stowell and therapeutic horticulture interns Emma Deeds and Jessi Rennie recently published a new document through UTIA on the therapeutic benefits of gardening. Follow the link for access to this free, informative publication [HERE](#).

May was Mental Health Awareness Month and TN AgrAbility promoted the American Farm Bureau Initiative, "[Farm State of Mind](#)", with five Facebook posts in May. This initiative focuses on finding resources for any farmer or rancher who is dealing with the demanding and stressful situations of farm life.

TN AgrAbility promoted through Facebook posts concerning the USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships workshop series weekly in May. This series convenes farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, local leaders, and federal, state and university partners to discuss mental health challenges, [More](#)



TN AgrAbility participated in the Haywood County Progressive Ag Safety Day with 150 elementary students. The disability awareness station consisted of a wheelchair obstacle course, reading with Dyslexia activity, and speech impairment and mental challenges. [More](#)

The Upper Cumberland Extension Team hosted the 3rd annual "Women in Ag Summit" in Carthage, TN. The goal of this event is to celebrate the impact that

female producers are having in Tennessee agriculture and assist them in honing skills for future success. [More](#)



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## Utah

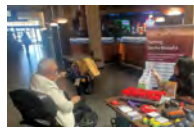
AgrAbility of Utah was excited to present at the Sustainable Grazing Institute at Bear River City, Utah on May 25. The Sustainable Grazing Institute was sponsored by Utah State University Extension and the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. The theme was Merging the Art and Science of Management Intensive Grazing.

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## Washington

The Washington AgrAbility team has spent the last month preparing for summer outreach and educational opportunities via crop tours, farmer field days, and fairs, in addition to an uptick in on-site assessments.

Emily Whittier, Washington AgrAbility co-coordinator, tabled at the Goldendale Home and Garden Show in Goldendale, WA on May 5-6. The AT displayed was a huge hit and brought a lot of traffic to the table. [More](#)



Debbie Fredricks and Alyssa Wade, Washington AgrAbility co-coordinators attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference in Worley, Idaho on May 8-11. They tabled at the event with several pieces of AT displayed, distributed AgrAbility pamphlets and booklets, and held many great conversations... [More](#)

Debbie Fredricks also met with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of SW Washington to inform them about the AgrAbility and farm stress programs.

The Washington team had several on-site assessments this spring and is looking forward to many more this summer.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/882261c9701/8b01b8c2-ad66-4a21-968b-fab6a51ecf92.jpg?rdr=true>

Don McMoran, Washington AgrAbility program manager has spent the last month focusing his attention on getting his employees moved from timeslip to Civil Service and getting new grant funding in place.



It's been hot in Washington! A recent study by Oregon State University found that hot temperatures correlated to higher rates of traumatic injuries. Injuries increased starting at 75-degree heat and increased even more at 90 degrees and above. [More](#)

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**International AgrAbility Network  
News**

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## AgrAbility for Africa

The World Disability Report published by WHO in 2011 states that the prevalence of severe and moderate disability is higher in Africa than in many other regions of the world,

especially in younger (<60 years) population groups. It is assumed that the causes are related to infectious diseases and accident injuries associated mostly with roads and farms. [More](#)



On the 5th and the 6th of June, the inaugural AgrAbility for Africa event was held. This annual training workshop aims to improve stakeholder coordination at country and continental levels; strengthen evaluations of the effectiveness of disability-specific interventions; establish joint strategies to improve the activities of daily living for people with disabilities across Africa. [More](#)

## StaffChanges and Recognition

### Georgia

Rebecca Brightwell was featured as Georgia Department of Agriculture's Industry News' Mental Health Hero on May 19th. <https://agr.georgia.gov/news/mental-health-hero-Becky-Brightwell>

### Missouri

Please welcome Jenna Korff, who is currently a senior at the University of Missouri majoring in health sciences with an emphasis in rehabilitation science and minoring in human development and family science. Jenna grew up on a fourth-generation farm in northcentral Missouri, where her family is involved with row crops, mainly corn and soybeans. While she has respect and passion for agriculture, she hopes to obtain a degree in occupational therapy and return to practice in her rural community. Jenna is excited and grateful for her experience with AgrAbility, where she will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of mental health in a unique population and learn how to best care for her clients in the future.



On May 31st, Lincoln University Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program says goodbye to farm outreach worker Angela Brattin. For the past two years, Angela has served small-scale farmers in the southwest region of Missouri and traveled throughout the state with the Jessup Wagon.

### Wisconsin



AgrAbility of Wisconsin is pleased to welcome Julianne Renner as its new communications intern for the summer 2023 season. Renner is currently a graduate student at University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Life Sciences Communication Department. Before starting school at UW-Madison, Renner was a park ranger with the National Park Service at several different national park units for over four years.

"I am very excited to begin this position with AgrAbility of Wisconsin," says Renner. "I hope to help spread the message about this fantastic program and learn more about the agricultural community in Wisconsin."

This internship is in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's Agricultural Research Stations (ARS). Renner will be representing AgrAbility and UW ARS at ARS events and field days. She will also be working to spread awareness for these events and programs through media outreach, printed campaigns, social media and in-person promotions.

## Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [Military veterans and farmers find support through the National AgrAbility Project](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [Midwest Farm Weekly 6/3/2023](#) - AgrAbility interview portion of this video begins at 06:19 (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [Workshop focuses on veterans in farming](#) (Indiana AgrAbility Project, National AgrAbility Project)
- [Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs honors Purdue's Nicoletti-Martinez's outreach and assistance to migrant farmworkers](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [Gardening with our abilities this breakup season](#) (Alaska AgrAbility Project, AgrAbility)
- [Military veterans and farmers find support through the National AgrAbility Project](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin, National AgrAbility Project)
- [Couple helps fellow veterans through fruits of their labor using their apple orchard](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin, National AgrAbility Project)
- [USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\) supports military members, veterans and their families through work initiatives and a variety of programs and services.](#) (AgrAbility)
- [Armenian delegation visits Kansas Soldiers' Home and Kansas Veterans' Cemetery](#) (Kansas AgrAbility Project)
- [AgrAbility Welcomes New Intern](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)

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### OtherNews

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

- [QPR for Farmers and Farm Families](#) - AgriSafe Network
- [Talking Total Farmer Health](#)  
Youth Stressors and Mental Wellness  
Episode 21 • 1st June 2023 • AgriSafe Talking Total Farmer Health
- UGA CAES professor Dr. Glen Rains was featured in Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin regarding recent USDA NIFA grant for the development of The Digital and Data-Driven Demonstration Farm (4-D Farm).  
[https://www.newsbreak.com/news/3029704905671-us-ag-dept-sends-4-million-to-ag-college-at-uga?noAds=1&\\_f=app\\_share&s=i4](https://www.newsbreak.com/news/3029704905671-us-ag-dept-sends-4-million-to-ag-college-at-uga?noAds=1&_f=app_share&s=i4)
- ['Concerning' anxiety levels among women in farming linked with isolation, financial worries and workload](#)
- [Low-stress Cattle Handling's Domino Effect on Improved Health, Productivity](#)
- [Myaniml expands health platform with muzzles to detect disease in cattle](#)
- [Farm Aid Provides Spanish-Language Hotline Support](#)
- [Resilient Farmers, Ranchers and Communities: Social Sustainability in Agriculture](#)
- [Lack of affordable child care is hurting young farm families' ability to grow their businesses](#)
- [Farm stressors affect mental health of adults and adolescent children](#)

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### UpcomingEvents

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

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





June 2023

## National AgrAbility Project

**AgrAbility Regional Workshops** - The Veterans in Agriculture Regional Workshop was held at the Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport June 6-8, 2023. This Regional focused on veterans in farming and programs to support them. There were 51 attendees, including 22 veterans. They attended nine



presentations covering business planning, food safety, marketing, land access and estate planning, farming with a disability, and resources, programs, and benefits for veterans. They toured Celtic Farm Heritage Livestock, Rosehill Farm Stop, and American Mushroom and Spice. Great information and conversations were shared.

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

June 2023

## Georgia

Georgia AgrAbility staff presented the Mobile Learning Lab during the Northeast Region Agriculture and Natural Resources Update Meeting for UGA Extension. A group of approximately 35 University of Georgia Extension faculty members participated in the presentation that took place on May 16th at the Jackson County Ag Facility. Extension agents were able to interact with AgrAbility staff members and receive training on assistive work technology as well as outreach opportunities through Georgia AgrAbility.

The Meet at the Shed Program is continuing to offer workshops for men to come and fellowship with each other. On May 23rd, staff offered a class that taught participants how to make berry-picking baskets using primitive techniques. By popular demand, staff expanded the Meet at the Shed Program this month to include a She Shed day on May 30th. Participants had a great time connecting with each other and learning new skills. There were 22 participants.



Members of the Georgia AgrAbility team continue to be a part of the Step-Up Grady community outreach efforts to address the various stressors impacting the lives of people across rural Georgia. Several in attendance highlighted the impacts farmers have locally as well as the many complex issues they face. As a result, a Farmer Community Conversation is currently being slated for the monthly July meeting. These conversations will focus on the current issues, address needs from the community, and identify other supporting organizations and systems that may be effective in ensuring they are able to continue to be effective members of the community while supporting the #1 industry in the state.



Submitted by Whitney Ostrander

June 2023

## Indiana

May 6, Chuck Baldwin presented AgrAbility and staffed a booth at the Black Loam Conference held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Approximately 20 people attended the conference. The focus of the conference was to introduce primarily BIPOC and socially disadvantaged farmers, mostly urban farmers, to the resources available to them through agencies and programs of the USDA.

Ed Sheldon, Indiana and NAP Extension outreach coordinator, represented Indiana AgrAbility at the May 20, 2023, Indiana Black Loam Conference held at the historic Madame CJ Walker Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ed joined other ag service agencies in a panel discussion and highlighted AgrAbility's services to underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. He also distributed AgrAbility resources and visited with conference participants, including farmers and agricultural leaders from around Indiana, as they browsed the exhibit area.



Indiana Black Loam Conference programs have been held in urban centers throughout Indiana during spring 2023: Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Bloomington, and Indianapolis. These workshops are specifically targeted toward BIPOC and socially disadvantaged farmers, with most participants being from urban areas. The programs are hosted by the Legacy Farming and Health Group based in Lyles Station, Indiana, and

the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, a collaboration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Purdue University.

The semiannual Indiana AgrAbility advisory team meeting was held Wednesday, May 24, from 10:30 - 2:30 at the FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, Indiana. Twenty-seven people attended. Alexandria Ward from Farm Aid was there as a guest and spoke with the team for the first 30 minutes until she had to leave to catch a flight out of Indianapolis. Five new or potential advisory team members were introduced to the group including representatives of VR, IN Dept. of Veterans Affairs, East Coast Migrant Head Start, Farm Credit Mid-America, and Purdue Extension working with 4-H.



Among the business items discussed was a question on how staff could make the AgrAbility display at the State Fair more interesting to attract more people and, correspondingly, how staff could make working the AgrAbility exhibit easier for volunteers.

Submitted by Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin

June 2023

## Maine

AgrAbility's OTD student conducted outreach at the National Seaweed Symposium which is a convening of key industry, regulatory, academic, and professional leaders in and contributors to, the US seaweed sector. The three-day conference featured targeted presentations, unique field trips, and engaging networking sessions. Three clients signed up to learn more about how AgrAbility can help them in this industry.

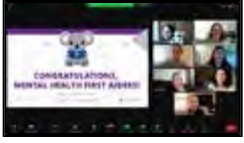


Staff and OTD students provided instruction during five sessions to 130 loggers in Ft. Kent at the Canadian border, focusing on back health through posture, and identifying key areas on the body for loggers to pay attention to in order to reduce musculoskeletal disorders. Loggers were given stretches to perform throughout the day to help keep the curves in their back healthy.

Submitted by Anne Martin

June 2023

## Missouri



During the month of May, staff members from Missouri AgrAbility, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, rural & urban agriculture stakeholders, and behavioral/mental partners promoted a successful Mental Health Awareness Month statewide campaign. Collaboratively, they developed the 2023 Mental Health Awareness Month Promotional Toolkit, posted

daily on <https://www.facebook.com/ShowMeStrongFarmFamilies/>, disseminated five press releases, provided two Mental Health First Aid classes, three QPR sessions, and three Weathering the Storm in Agriculture: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset programs, and participated with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Columbia MO, Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, and Children's Grove to hold a ceremony that highlights Children's Mental Health Week.



4-H conducted one new Save Your Brain Volunteer training and four new Save Your Brain Teen Ambassador trainings. The University of Missouri Extension (MUE) created the Save Your Brain curriculum (<https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/lg820>) in a joint effort with the BIA-MO and the Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) with grant funding provided by the USDA NIFA to promote prevention of brain injuries in rural, agricultural communities. The Save Your Brain curriculum provides a teachers' facilitator guide and other resources to teach general awareness of traumatic brain injury and ways students can protect themselves from TBI.

Save Your Brain Ambassadors championed a fund-raising campaign and received a grant from FCS Financial to make a local, youth building accessible to rural individuals with disabilities. The project has currently raised over \$1,000; construction of a ramp and installation of assistive devices is underway. Additionally, a local, rural-based church that collaborates with 4-H has begun working to create a low-sensory space for youth and individuals with disabilities within the church. These efforts came about because of the 4-H Save Your Brain Ambassadors who have been working to educate other youth and the public on health, safety, wellness, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

Submitted by Emily Doosing, Willard Downs, Joni Harper, and Karen Funkenbusch

June 2023

## New Mexico

Using the hashtag #OTLovesFarmers, a UNM OT Student, Marcyanna Rinaldi, has created several video shorts geared at common injuries that food producers may experience:

- [Welcome to OTLovesFarmers!](#)
- [Finger Amputations](#)
- [All about Tennis Elbow](#)
- [Why education matters](#)
- [Golfer Elbow](#)
- [Carpel Tunnel part 1!](#)
- [Carpel Tunnel Part 2](#)

Submitted by New Mexico AgrAbility Project

June 2023

## Ohio

Ohio AgrAbility (OAP) staff joined OSU Ag Safety and Health at a Farm Bureau safety day event. Staff share resources on AgrAbility and farm stress/mental health and networked with other exhibitors. OAP client Kane Lewis volunteered to work the event and talk to people about his experience working with OAP. Kane is a tremendous advocate for AgrAbility and will be starting a new job as the agriculture and natural resources Extension educator in Scioto County, Ohio in late June. OAP staff are very excited to call Kane a colleague as well as a client, and they look forward to working with him to promote Ohio AgrAbility throughout the state.



Submitted by Laura Akgerman



June 2023

## South Carolina

This month, the team will continue to work on planning a workshop with some participants from the National AgrAbility Project and the LIFE Project. Staff hope to describe AgrAbility and how they can offer services to the participating farmers in the area. South Carolina State University and those from Clemson and Able SC, who make up the South Carolina team, will host the event.

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The AgrAbility team will continue working with Able SC in its commitment to the state in offering the AgrAbility program. The team will meet individually with vocational rehabilitation to develop a plan to provide farmers in the state with resources to benefit their commitment to agriculture. The team will continue to cross-educate each other on the benefits of disability services and the quality of agriculture throughout South Carolina.

Submitted by AgrAbility in South Carolina

June 2023

## Tennessee

TN AgrAbility, represented by Eileen Legault along with Susan Turner, outreach specialist for the Progressive Ag Foundation, made a presentation to 17 Extension agents at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers (TAE4-HW) in Knoxville. This presentation gave information about offering Progressive Ag Safety Days in their communities along with lessons that can be taught in classrooms on ag safety. Learn more about [Ag Safety Days HERE](#).

Therapeutic horticulture is a practice that embraces the healing power of nature to promote physical and emotional well-being. It involves using plants, gardens, and cultivating a sense of connection with nature to help people improve their health, well-being, and quality of life. Dr. Derrick Stowell, UT Gardens education and horticultural therapy program administrator and immediate past president of the [American Horticultural Therapy Association](#), led a horticultural therapy workshop attended by fourteen veterans and hosted by the UT Gardens in Knoxville and TN AgrAbility. Topics included: career options for veterans, how TN AgrAbility and Frontline Gardens can assist veterans, hands-on gardening/horticulture activities, and opportunities to network with other veterans with similar interest.



[Horticultural Therapy Outreach | UT Gardens - The State Botanical Garden of Tennessee](#)  
<https://frontlinegardens.org/>

TN AgrAbility promoted through Facebook posts concerning the USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships workshop series weekly in May. This series convenes farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, local leaders, and federal, state and university partners to discuss mental health challenges, stressors, and the resources to address them. To learn more and view the recorded webinars visit <https://www.usda.gov/ocr/eia/fbnp>.



TN AgrAbility participated in the Haywood County Progressive Ag Safety Day with 150 elementary students. The disability awareness station consisted of a wheelchair obstacle course, reading with Dyslexia activity, and speech impairment and mental challenges. The students had a fun time with this event while also realizing the challenges faced by those with physical limitations.

The Upper Cumberland Extension Team hosted the 3rd annual "Women in Ag Summit" in Carthage, TN. The goal of this event is to celebrate the impact that female producers are having in Tennessee agriculture and assist them in honing skills for future success. Over 150 women attended the summit. Those visiting the TN AgrAbility booth were able to try the assistive technology tools on display that help producers who may suffer from arthritis, joint pain and other chronic diseases.



Submitted by Tennessee AgrAbility Project



June 2023

## Washington

Emily Whittier, Washington AgrAbility co-coordinator, tabled at the Goldendale Home and Garden Show in Goldendale, WA on May 5-6. The AT displayed was a huge hit and brought a lot of traffic to the table. Several people entered a drawing for gift bags that included Washington AgrAbility hats and grippy gardening gloves. Emily handed out several copies of National AgrAbility's booklets on arthritis and back pain, as well as many Toolbox postcards.



Debbie Fredricks and Alyssa Wade, Washington AgrAbility co-coordinators attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference in Worley, Idaho on May 8-11. They tabled at the event with several pieces of AT displayed, distributed AgrAbility pamphlets and booklets, and held many great conversations about AgrAbility with different tribes. Debbie Fredrick spoke with the Cowlitz tribe and the Inter-Tribal Warrior Society Chaplin about AgrAbility and Farm Stress.

It's been hot in Washington! A recent study by Oregon State University found that hot temperatures correlated to higher rates of traumatic injuries. Injuries increased starting at 75-degree heat and increased even more at 90 degrees and above. The study also examined the impact of wildfire smoke, as wildfire occurrences rise across the nation. Washington AgrAbility is sharing heat-related information from the WA Department of Labor and Industries and the CDC with partners to help increase awareness, recognition, and prevention of heat-induced illness.

OSU article summary: <https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/osu-study-finds-higher-rates-traumatic-injuries-outdoor-workers-during-hotter-weather>

Article in full (open access): <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hsr2.820>

Submitted by Washington AgrAbility Project

June 2023

## AgrAbility for Africa

The World Disability Report published by WHO in 2011 states that the prevalence of severe and moderate disability is higher in Africa than in many other regions of the world, especially in younger (<60 years) population groups. It is assumed that the causes are related to infectious diseases and accident injuries associated mostly with roads and farms. Additionally, Africa is the continent with the highest number of children born with congenital disabilities due to nutritional deficiencies of mothers during pregnancy, and untreated medical conditions due to broken healthcare systems across Africa.

AgrAbility for Africa staff have taken on the challenges to reduce the burden and enhance the quality of care while improving access to employment, rehabilitation, and assistive technologies.



On the 5th and the 6th of June, the inaugural AgrAbility for Africa event was held. This annual training workshop aims to improve stakeholder coordination at country and continental levels; strengthen evaluations of the effectiveness of disability-

specific interventions; establish joint strategies to improve the activities of daily living for people with disabilities across Africa. AgrAbility for Africa's plan is geared towards improving the quality and availability of rehabilitative care and programmatic interventions for persons with disabilities, establishing safeguards, ensuring implementation of existing laws, and neutralizing any barrier to their social participation.



Staff hope that local and international collaboration will successfully fight the burden of African diseases, poverty, and nutrition. Additionally, it is hoped that such collaboration will eliminate the "double" triple burden; NCDs (Noncommunicable Diseases, also known as chronic diseases); mental health and injuries; and inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.

AgrAbility for Africa greatly appreciates AgrAbility-USA for the support. Special thanks to Chuck Baldwin –AgrAbility USA, for attending the inaugural event in Entebbe, Uganda; also, Melese Eyob from Ethiopia, and all other local and international speakers, farmers, and the entire AgrAbility for Africa team for the successful event.

Staff are looking forward to the AgrAbility for Africa training workshop in 2024.

Submitted by Mutumba Faisal

June 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** Horse Progress Days  
**Dates** June 30 - July 1, 2023  
**City, State** Shipshewana, Indiana  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://horseprogressdays.com/>

**Name** West TN Beginning Farmer Field Day  
**Dates** July 20, 2023  
**City, State** Trenton, Tennessee  
**Contact Info/Web link** Joetta T White: 731-855-7656 [jwhit102@utk.edu](mailto:jwhit102@utk.edu)

**Name** Farm Science Review  
**Dates** September 19-21, 2023  
**City, State** London, Ohio  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://fsr.osu.edu/>

**Name** 2023 agrileadHER virtual conference  
**Dates** November 1-2, 2023  
**City, State** Virtual Event Online  
**Contact Info/Web link** <https://www.agrileadher.com/>