

AgrAbility e•Note

December 2024

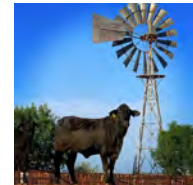
A monthly update for AgrAbility projects and friends of AgrAbility

National AgrAbility Project News

Next AgrAbility all-staff virtual meeting: Monday, December 16, 3:00 p.m. EDT. Contact jonesp@purdue.edu if you didn't receive details.

NTW Updates

- Registration is open! Visit www.agrability.org/ntw and click the Register tab.
- The committee has reviewed all the session proposals, and a schedule is now posted on the NTW website. Poster proposals will be accepted through December 31. Click [Call for Poster](#) or see the form link on the website.
- Rooms at the Hotel Encanto have been blocked for us at a rate of \$110.00 per night, plus a \$10 amenity fee and applicable taxes. Please use Booking Link: [2503AGRABI](#) to book your accommodation online. [More](#)
- **The travel stipend request deadline is January 10**. SRAPs should provide a travel stipend to a farmer/rancher before requesting NAP stipends from that state. Reach out to local organizations to see if they can help stipend a farmer. The link to the farmer stipend application has been sent out to the SRAPs and is available on the [NTW website](#).
- Exhibitor applications are also available on the [NTW website](#), or you can have them contact [Tess McKeel](#).
- Start thinking about auction items and raffle baskets. We always have a good time with both, and they help raise money for farmer stipends.



Congratulations to Joe Ricker, veteran outreach coordinator for both National AgrAbility and Indiana AgrAbility, on being named recipient of the first-ever Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation with support from Farm Credit. [More](#)

NAP has added new web-based resources for conducting worksite assessments featuring training modules from the AgrAbility regional workshop in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Included are classroom session recordings on a wide variety of topics plus extensive video footage from a sample farm assessment, such as clips related to the initial pre-



assessment discussion, the client's meeting with a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and assessment of various structures and equipment around the farm. [More](#)

Newly archived virtual events:

- NTW Encore Webinar: "A Novel Approach to Pain Management For Farmers + Let's Mooove: Movement and Self-Massage for Longevity & Productivity on the Farm" www.agrability.org/training-category/archived

Toolbox Spotlight



Unlike traditional body-powered prostheses, which require active muscle contraction to maintain grip, the customized [Point-Designs Prosthetic Digits](#) feature a ratcheting linkage mechanism that both allows natural flexion of the finger(s) and locks it/them into position. Each digit also possesses a touchscreen-compatible fingertip. The company, committed to ensuring precise fit for every patient, provides no-cost size exchanges throughout the fitting process. Being made of titanium, brass, and stainless-steel components, Point-Designs digits can be washed and dried without risk of corrosion or damage.

State and Regional AgrAbility Project News

Alaska

AgrAbility in the Last Frontier (ATLA) staff participated in an event hosted by the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Employment First Conference, focused on diversity and growth in business. Staff held an exhibit table and discussed how assistive technology can support employees to get and keep jobs in Alaska.

Extension staff/faculty provided community presentations and distributed materials on gardening with arthritis/what is AgrAbility? to an interior Alaska gardening club, tribal environmental Indian general assistance workers, and the Alaska Farm Bureau (three separate events).

California



California AgrAbility's Esmeralda Mandujano recently presented at the 14th annual California Ag Labor Forum in San Luis Obispo. The forum provided resources and information to help agricultural employers and managers understand regulatory requirements. [More](#)

Georgia

AgrAbility staff attended a Veterans Day event at Docs Healing Hives. This organization provides an opportunity for veterans to learn beekeeping skills, engage in hands-on hive management, and develop camaraderie within a supportive community. The event was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new learning center to increase its capacity to serve veterans.

Staff are continuing to assist AgrAbility farmers with physical cleanup from Hurricane Helene. Some of the farmers received extreme damage from the storm. Staff have also been working diligently to provide our farmers with up-to-date information on hurricane relief funding from the USDA and the state of Georgia.



The AgrAbility veteran coordinator attended the We Care Veteran Fair, which aimed to educate veterans on disability services, educational benefits, and employment opportunities. Georgia continues to lead efforts statewide to promote positive mental health and connecting resources and programs for the nation's heroes.

Illinois

Illinois AgrAbility is wrapping up an in-person chronic pain self-management class with 10 participants in Sullivan, IL. This class is six weeks and utilizes problem solving, action planning, interactive activities, and more to educate participants on how to better manage their lifestyles when dealing with chronic pain.

Illinois AgrAbility will be facilitating a "Ticket to Health" health screening booth at the annual Illinois Farm Bureau meeting in Chicago in December. This booth will contain a variety of different FREE health screenings for Farm Bureau members to optionally participate in. [More](#)

Illinois AgrAbility hosted a ladder safety booth at the National FFA Convention in October where they hosted over 1,000 high school aged youth. Staff will be heading to the Peoria Farm Show in December to present a workshop and host a booth featuring AgrAbility, farm stress, mental health, and more.

Indiana



The Rooted and Resilient Homesteading Conference, sponsored by Purdue Extension, was held in Kendallville, Indiana, November 1 & 2. The program was attended by participants from throughout northern Indiana, along with many from nearby Ohio and Michigan. [More](#)

Michigan

ITC Holdings is donating \$50,000 per year for three years to Michigan county Farm Bureaus for purchase of grain bin safety training and equipment. This will open up opportunities for Michigan AgrAbility to help clients prevent secondary injuries while managing grain storage.

Ned Stoller and Samantha Wolfe conducted an assistive technology for beekeepers presentation for a beekeeping guild and demonstrated several types of hand tools, hive lifters, and a swarm trap lifter.



Staff braved the early season snow to meet with several new clients and conduct initial assessments with them. Next, they look forward to the winter conference season and various expos and outreach opportunities.

Missouri

University of Missouri Extension and Missouri AgrAbility continue to work with certified

occupational therapy assistant (COTA) students with the University of Missouri Department of Occupational Therapy. Both groups of COTA students are finalizing their community practice projects and will present their results in December.

Missouri AgrAbility was recognized as the Rural Missouri Track Sponsor by nearly 250 AgrAbility clients of professionals, persons with brain injury, and family members who attended the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Annual Statewide Conference between November 7 - 9 Chesterfield, Missouri. A featured session that highlighted rural Missouri was "Changes in the Workplace" presented by Doug Swanson, with the University of Missouri Extension, a Missouri AgrAbility partner.

Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO executive director, and Susan Jaster, Lincoln University farm outreach worker, led a NAP discussion on "Brain Injury Causes, Effects, and Suggestions for Working with Farmers with Brain Injury" on November 13. There were great questions and discussion to increase the knowledge and perspective of participants.

Nebraska

On November 8, Emily Jacobson participated in the Stand Up for Veterans Event in Norfolk, Nebraska. This was an important opportunity to share information about AgrAbility with nearly 100 veterans and their families. [More](#)



Jada Zimmer (Ruff) represented Nebraska AgrAbility at the Gateway Farm Expo in Kearney, Nebraska, on November 20 and 21. Jada reports that there were many conversations and opportunities to connect with potential clients and families of past clients. [More](#)

On November 22, Emily Jacobson and Kara Brichacek staffed a booth at the annual Ag-Ceptional Women's Conference. Nearly 350 people participated in the event. The Nebraska AgrAbility module at the event was focused on caregiver resources. [More](#)



Emily Jacobson completed follow-up visits with clients in November. They were so excited about their new assistive equipment. [More](#)

New Mexico

The AgrAbility exhibit at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum is scheduled for a walkthrough Tuesday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m. and the official opening on Thursday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m. with a reception.

Farm apprentices will graduate on December 19. Staff will have great images of the graduation party in the new year. The apprentices have been planting tulips and garlic and protecting planted cold-weather crops for the winter season.

Mandy's Farm, New Mexico AgrAbility's non-profit partner, is building its next cohort of apprentices. Space is still available.

UNM and NMAP team members have been invited to do a "Spring into Ergonomic Gardening" workshop with the Albuquerque Master Gardeners in January.

Two occupational therapy graduate students have completed field work II rotations at Mandy's farm. They will take the lessons they learned about the rigor of farm tasks into their lives as OTs.

Ohio



Ohio AgrAbility is thankful for the Ohio farmers who trust OAP with their time, stories, hospitality, and faith that OAP can help them to continue farming for years to come. The commitment the farmers show to their families, farms, and communities is deep, and their generosity for mentoring other farmers, attending outreach and peer events, and willingness to tell their stories to the media helps

OAP spread the word about AgrAbility services.

OAP appreciates the students, SRAP colleagues, and friends who support OAP through fundraisers, time, capstone projects and expertise that they share with farmers, Extension educators, and stakeholders across the state.

OAP is very grateful for the stellar Ohio team who works so hard to serve farmers, educate everyone they encounter, and spread the word that farmers with disabilities can not only continue farming, but can thrive and prosper.

Pennsylvania

AgrAbility PA provided an assistive technology presentation in collaboration with the DuBois Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) for an assistive technology awareness day. The event was attended by OVR staff, OTA students, and members of the public. [More](#)



South Carolina

Many events have occurred for the South Carolina AgrAbility team to participate in and distribute information about the program. These events are winding down for the year, but staff have already scheduled a few for the new year.

Able South Carolina staff joined South Carolina State Extension staff on November 19 at a Hartsville, South Carolina, community event called AgrAbility & Assistive Technology Workshop. Staff provided a presentation on Able SC services, including information on how the South Carolina AgrAbility Project supports small farming businesses operated by people with disabilities. [More](#)

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility staff had the opportunity to attend the Heart of Champions Livestock Show for Hardin County special education students hosted by University of Tennessee Martin (UTM) Sigma Alpha Sorority and organized by Taylor Cantrell, UTM vet science major. Due to weather, the show was cancelled, but that did not stop Taylor and Sigma Alpha. [More](#)

November 14 was recognized as National Usability Day. TN AgrAbility shared the importance of inclusive design and the work of disability centers in making technology accessible for all. [More](#)

TN AgrAbility observed Veteran's Day to honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our freedom. As TN AgrAbility expressed gratitude through social media, it featured a local business, Honey Bee Mine Farm. [More](#)



TN AgrAbility ended November with being thankful for the opportunity to help build a strong and supportive community for people living with disabilities. Merry Christmas from TN AgrAbility!

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah was excited to set up a vendor table at the Society of Range Management (SRM) Annual Conference in Ephraim, Utah, on November 6th and 7th. Staff were able to meet with and explain AgrAbility to many of the 150 attendees. [More](#)

On November 15, AgrAbility staff presented to Utah Rural Healthcare ECHO members during their monthly webinar. [More](#)

AgrAbility staff set up a vendor booth at the Utah State Farm Bureau Convention in Provo, Utah, on November 22. Over 500 Farm Bureau members attended, and many were able to learn more about AgrAbility. [More](#)

Virginia

This month, AgrAbility Virginia presented about the impact of farmer dinner theaters providing an engaging platform for education and community building.

Staff also had the opportunity to present to 31 undergraduate students in the Virginia Tech "Identity and Inclusion in Agriculture and Life Sciences" course highlighting the mission of AgrAbility and importance of inclusion in agricultural practices.

Currently, AgrAbility Virginia is actively supporting 38 open farmer client cases, each tailored to meet individual needs. One notable case involves a dairy farmer experiencing upper extremity mobility limitations. [More](#)

Wisconsin



AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff hosted their annual Advisory Council meeting on November 1st. Progress updates were provided related to the AgrAbility grant and Easterseals' SDA grant. [More](#)

Outreach Program Coordinator Michelle Bachand hosted a booth at the first-ever expo held at UW-Madison Extension's annual All Colleague Conference on November 19th. Michelle had the opportunity to talk with Extension colleagues about the AgrAbility program... [More](#)



Easterseals Wisconsin is coordinating a video production that will share a story of success for AgrAbility of Wisconsin client, John Mitchell. Jeff Kratochwill, Easterseals FARM Program director, interviewed John,... [More](#)

Staff Changes and Recognition

Alaska

Julie Cascio, one of our enthusiastic Extension AgrAbility team members has retired. Since becoming part of the team, Julie had promoted AgrAbility at as many events as she was able to schedule, and she became very well versed in assistive technology for farming/gardening.

Missouri

LUCE ISFOP welcomes a new ISFOP director, Dr. Mark Lucas, and a new farm outreach worker in the central region, Bryan de Valdivia, to the team.

Pennsylvania

Congratulations to Abbie Spackman on her recent marriage! Her new last name is Abbie Kibe.

Wisconsin

AgrAbility of Wisconsin Outreach Program Coordinator Michelle Bachand was part of the team that received the Purdue Agriculture 2024 TEAM Award for their work on the Gearing Up for Safety curriculum. This program addresses the specific safety needs of young workers in agriculture - a sector often associated with hazardous tasks, especially for youth under the age of 16.

AgrAbility in the News

Click titles below for news stories featuring AgrAbility projects .

- [From service to soil: veterans find new purpose in agriculture through AgrAbility](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [Fire and rescue teams in Williamsburg County train for grain bin entrapments](#) (AgrAbility in South Carolina)
- [Free Slow Moving Vehicle Signs Now Available for Wisconsin Farmers Through AgrAbility of Wisconsin](#) (AgrAbility of Wisconsin)
- [AgrAbility Supports U.S. Veterans in Ag](#) (National AgrAbility Project, Indiana AgrAbility Project)
- [Heroes to Hives offers veterans training, camaraderie and purpose](#) (Missouri AgrAbility Project)
- [Your voice matters: How farmers can shape the future of AgrAbility](#) (Michigan AgrAbility Project)
- [Farmer defies odds, harvests record yield after brain injury](#) (Illinois AgrAbility, National AgrAbility Project)
- [Ohio's AgrAbility program keeps farmers with disabilities farming](#) (Ohio AgrAbility)
- [Farmers seek ideas for profitability at farm show](#) (Illinois AgrAbility)

Other News

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

- Lincoln University Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program farm outreach workers Brian de Valdivia and Mary Keeter demonstrated safe handling of power tools and proper PPE at a hands-on mushroom inoculation workshop in St. Louis on Thursday, November 14th for 10 small-scale farmers.
- AgrAbility staff, Suzanna Windon, recently published an article related to sheep and goat producers in PA - Windon, S. R., & Henzi, C. (2024). *Assessing Relationship Between Goat and Sheep Farmers' Stress and Their Demographics: A Pilot Study*. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*, 30(3): 107-122. doi: 10.13031/jash.15820. [Link to article](#).
- Three hundred Fayette/Hardeman County 5th graders arrived throughout the day at the Somerville Livestock Sale barn for the 2024 Farm Fest. They attended stations dealing with animals, bees, money, and helmet safety taught by TN AgrAbility staff. [More](#)

- TN AgrAbility introduced the 1st of four farm safety - "Being Safe on the Farm is Everyone's Responsibility," in-services in November for UT TSU Extension. [More](#)
- [Fir the Love of Christmas: History of Christmas Tree Farms](#)
- [SARE Awards \\$8M to Food Loss and Waste Projects](#)
- [NASS Releases Additional Census of Agriculture Data](#)
- [Tractor tire design impacts on-road performance](#)
- [Forest, Water, and Sunshine: How Winter Escapes Heal Better Than Any Supplements](#)
- [Educators' Classroom Implementation Kit From National FFA & AgCareers.com](#)

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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December 2024

National AgrAbility Project

- Rooms at the Hotel Encanto have been blocked for us at a rate of \$110.00 per night, plus a \$10 amenity fee and applicable taxes. Please use Booking Link: [2503AGRABI](#) to book your accommodation online. This link is only valid during the specified room block dates, the arrival and departure dates must be selected from the drop-down menu. Alternatively, individuals may contact the reservations team directly at (866) 383-0443 and provide the group code: 2503AGRABI

There are only 2 accessible rooms at the Hotel Encanto. The Hotel Encanto does have some rooms with a walk-in shower (1-2in lip), that may be able to be made accessible with a shower chair. There are photos of the bathroom on the Hotel tab of the [NTW website](#). Please let Tess know if you are in need of these items. We have also booked some accessible rooms at the Comfort Suites University and Sleep Inn University. Please let Tess know if you are in need of an accessible room from either of those hotels.

Submitted by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

December 2024

California



California AgrAbility's Esmeralda Mandujano recently presented at the 14th annual California Ag Labor Forum in San Luis Obispo. The forum provided resources and information to help agricultural employers and managers understand regulatory requirements. Sessions were held in English and Spanish and explored strategies and solutions to help conquer challenges facing the ag community. Esmeralda's session focused on the importance for agricultural employers to support their employees' mental health. She shared effective strategies for creating a positive workplace culture, recognizing mental health challenges, and how to prioritize mental well-being to boost productivity and job satisfaction.

Submitted by Angelina Padilla

December 2024

Illinois

Illinois AgrAbility will be facilitating a "Ticket to Health" health screening booth at the annual Illinois Farm Bureau meeting in Chicago in December. This booth will contain a variety of different FREE health screenings for Farm Bureau members to optionally participate in. They will receive a useful bucket of PPE items upon participation in the screenings as an incentive. The booth will be promoting being proactive in health and safety on the farm.

Submitted by Haley Jones

December 2024

Indiana

The Rooted and Resilient Homesteading Conference, sponsored by Purdue Extension, was held in Kendallville, Indiana, November 1 & 2. The program was attended by participants from throughout northern Indiana, along with many from nearby Ohio and Michigan. Attendees learned about everything from livestock handling to safe tree felling techniques to food preservation in the many available workshops and classes.



AgrAbility Veteran Outreach Coordinator Joe Ricker, along with DOD SkillBridge intern Brian Beal, participated in a panel discussion for veterans involved with agriculture. Indiana AgrAbility Extension Outreach Coordinator Ed Sheldon presented a workshop on accessible tools plus a separate session on agricultural machinery safety. In addition, the AgrAbility team maintained a display and distributed a variety of resources to

conference participants.

Submitted by Ed Sheldon

December 2024

Nebraska

On November 8, Emily Jacobson participated in the Stand Up for Veterans Event in Norfolk, Nebraska. This was an important opportunity to share information about AgrAbility with nearly 100 veterans and their families. Originally, this event focused on helping homeless veterans access information about programs and employment opportunities. In just seven years, the event has grown to provide opportunities for veterans to support each other, and in tough times, find those resources to help not just survive, but thrive. Emily noted that veterans who are not retired from the workforce shared with her that they had wished they had known about AgrAbility much earlier.



Jada Zimmer (Ruff) represented Nebraska AgrAbility at the Gateway Farm Expo in Kearney, Nebraska, on November 20 and 21. Jada reports that there were many conversations and opportunities to connect with potential clients and families of past clients. She notes that mental health and well-being was mentioned by many in these conversations.

On November 22, Emily Jacobson and Kara Brichacek staffed a booth at the annual Ag-Ceptional Women's Conference. Nearly 350 people participated in the event. The Nebraska AgrAbility module at the event was focused on caregiver resources. At the booth, many people stopped by who were interested in AgrAbility, as well as family members from past clients who were eager to share how AgrAbility has helped their family. Conference attendees also enjoyed participating in the Plinko activity where they were challenged to try a new stretch or yoga pose! The Plinko game questions were centered around stress reduction, especially for those in the caregiver role.



Emily Jacobson completed follow-up visits with clients in November. They were so excited about their new assistive equipment. Emily says, "One of the best parts of my job is watching people use their new pieces of equipment to overcome their limitations from health conditions." The clients were very grateful for financial assistance from Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation.

Submitted by Soni Cochran

December 2024

Pennsylvania



AgrAbility PA provided an assistive technology presentation in collaboration with the DuBois Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) for an assistive technology awareness day. The event was attended by OVR staff, OTA students, and members of the public. Presentations were also provided by

Penn State DuBois OTA students, LIFT, and Brant's Driving School. Many great AT ideas were shared!



Submitted by Marci Walborn

December 2024

South Carolina

Able South Carolina staff joined South Carolina State Extension staff on November 19 at a Hartsville, South Carolina, community event called AgrAbility & Assistive Technology Workshop. Staff provided a presentation on Able SC services, including information on how the South Carolina AgrAbility Project supports small farming businesses operated by people with disabilities. Six individuals from an underserved population attended the workshop and received information on disability pride, disability resources, and services that can support their small farming businesses.

Submitted by South Carolina AgrAbility

December 2024

Tennessee



TN AgrAbility staff had the opportunity to attend the Heart of Champions Livestock Show for Hardin County special education students hosted by University of Tennessee Martin (UTM) Sigma Alpha Sorority and organized by Taylor Cantrell, UTM vet science major. Due to weather, the show was canceled, but that did not stop Taylor and Sigma Alpha. They presented "Ag in the Classroom" lessons about goats, cows, and butter. TNAP staff enjoyed watching Sigma Alpha members interact with the students, and the hugs made the day extra special. The purpose of the day was to give special education students an opportunity to enjoy a day of agriculture.

November 14 was recognized as National Usability Day. TN AgrAbility shared the importance of inclusive design and the work of disability centers in making technology accessible for all. TN AgrAbility believes that accessibility isn't a luxury: it's a necessity to help TN AgrAbility farmers continue farming.

TN AgrAbility observed Veteran's Day to honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our freedom. As TN AgrAbility expressed gratitude through social media, it featured a local business, Honey Bee Mine Farm. This farm is committed to sustainable practices and community well-being. Nick Nicholls, co-owner, retired from the U.S. Army after 27 years of service. He began beekeeping as a teenager to help a Vietnam veteran neighbor. After retiring from the Army, Nick began beekeeping again to cope with post-traumatic stress. He participates in Hives for Heroes, a mentoring program for new beekeepers. He is a member of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of TN and proudly displays the Homegrown by Heroes/Pick TN Products logo on his products. Thank you to all veterans for their service and commitment to protecting our country!



Other News



Three hundred Fayette/Hardeman County 5th graders arrived throughout the day at the Somerville Livestock Sale barn for the 2024 Farm Fest. They attended stations dealing with animals, bees, money, and helmet safety taught by TN AgrAbility staff. TNAP staff demonstrated the importance of wearing a helmet using raw eggs as riders on a 4-wheeler. The majority of students answered, "Helmets aren't cool!" when asked why they didn't wear them.

TN AgrAbility introduced the 1st of four farm safety - "Being Safe on the Farm is Everyone's Responsibility," in-services in November for UT TSU Extension. Dr. John Cole, who has been teaching agriculture engineering technology courses at University of Tennessee at Martin presented on blind spots, ROPS, and the SAFE Farm Steward Program (<https://safefarmsteward.org>). Additional in-services in 2025 are scheduled for January 15, March 19 and May 21.



December 2024

Utah

AgrAbility of Utah was excited to set up a vendor table at the Society of Range Management (SRM) Annual Conference in Ephraim, Utah, on November 6th and 7th. Staff were able to meet with and explain AgrAbility to many of the 150 attendees. The Utah SRM section has grown to about 200 members, representing all people who manage, conserve, and enjoy the vast landscapes known as rangelands.

On November 15, AgrAbility staff presented to Utah Rural Healthcare ECHO members during their monthly webinar. Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an innovative tele-mentoring program designed to create virtual communities of learners by bringing together healthcare providers and subject matter experts using video conference technology, brief lecture presentations, and case-based learning, fostering an "all learn, all teach" approach.

AgrAbility staff set up a vendor booth at the Utah State Farm Bureau Convention in Provo, Utah, on November 22. Over 500 Farm Bureau members attended, and many were able to learn more about AgrAbility. The Farm Bureau's purpose is to advocate for and represent the interests of farmers and ranchers.

Submitted by Randall Bagley

December 2023

Virginia

Currently, AgrAbility Virginia is actively supporting 38 open farmer client cases, each tailored to meet individual needs. One notable case involves a dairy farmer experiencing upper extremity mobility limitations. Through collaborative efforts with Easterseals PORT Health, staff successfully secured funding from the Bellows Fund to provide a chemical transfer pump, enabling the farmer to fill a dump tank with greater ease. AgrAbility Virginia remains committed to offering innovative solutions and support that empower farmers across Virginia.

Submitted by Leslie Lawrence

December 2024

Wisconsin



AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff hosted their annual Advisory Council meeting on November 1st. Progress updates were provided related to the AgrAbility grant and Easterseals' SDA grant. Farmer success stories were shared with the Advisory Council and future planning discussions were facilitated.

Outreach Program Coordinator Michelle Bachand hosted a booth at the first-ever expo held at UW-Madison Extension's annual All Colleague Conference on November 19th. Michelle had the opportunity to talk with Extension colleagues about the AgrAbility program and connect the work of AgrAbility to the programming currently existing in Extension. Bucky Badger even visited the booth to learn about AgrAbility of Wisconsin!



Easterseals Wisconsin is coordinating a video production that will share a story of success for AgrAbility of Wisconsin client, John Mitchell. Jeff Kratochwill, Easterseals FARM Program director, interviewed John, and the video production team did a fantastic job capturing the interview and following John around the farm to capture how he's adapted tasks around the farm. Stay tuned for the video when it's finished!

Submitted by AgrAbility of Wisconsin

December 2024

Upcoming Events

Name 2024 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference
Dates December 17-19, 2024
City, State Manchester, New Hampshire
Contact Info/Web link <https://newenglandvfc.org/>

Name Potato Expo
Dates January 9-10, 2025
City, State Orlando, Florida
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.nationalpotatocouncil.org/potato-expo/>

Name Fort Wayne Farm Show
Dates January 14-16, 2025
City, State Fort Wayne, Indiana
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.tradexpos.com/fort-wayne-farm-show/>

Name Sioux Falls Farm Show
Dates January 22-24, 2025
City, State Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Contact Info/Web link <https://siouxfallsfarmshow.com/>

Name International Production & Processing Expo
Dates January 28-30, 2025
City, State Atlanta, Georgia
Contact Info/Web link <https://ippexpo.org/>

Name CattleCon 2025
Dates February 4-6, 2025
City, State San Antonio, Texas
Contact Info/Web link <https://convention.ncba.org/>

link

Name World Ag Expo
Dates February 11-13, 2025
City, State Tulare, California
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.worldagexpo.com/>

Name National Farm Machinery Show
Dates February 12-15, 2025
City, State Louisville, Kentucky
Contact Info/Web link <https://farmmachineryshow.org/>

Name Lincoln University Small Farmers Conference 2025
Dates March 3-5, 2025
City, State Jefferson City, Missouri
Contact Info/Web link <https://www.lincolnu.edu/college-of-agriculture-environmental-and-human-sciences/small-farmers-conference.html>

Name AgrAbility National Training Workshop
Dates March 24-27, 2025
City, State Las Cruces, New Mexico
Contact Info/Web link www.agrability.org/ntw