



2017 AgrAbility National Training Workshop



Knoxville, Tennessee • March 20-23



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PRESENTED BY

The National AgrAbility Project

Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue University

Tennessee AgrAbility Project

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

Colorado State University

APRIL

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Walker Housley



Welcome to Tennessee!

On behalf of the entire National AgrAbility Project staff, the Planning Committee, and all of our partners and sponsors, I want to extend a warm welcome to the 26th AgrAbility National Training Workshop. Spring has arrived to Tennessee and the committee has ordered warm days with lots of flowers in bloom.

AgrAbility is casting a larger shadow with every passing year, touching the lives of thousands of farmers, ranchers, and their families. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful adventure.

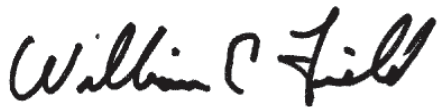
Even with the very short window to pull the 2017 event together, there is a lot of excitement that this event will be the best yet. At the time the program went to the printers, over 80 AgrAbility clients and farmers from over 25 states have registered to attend. This will be a record for consumer involvement. I encourage each of you to personally thank JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel for their incredible efforts to work out the details in such a short time.

The Planning Committee believes that the program includes something for everyone whether you are a new AgrAbility staff member or one with 15 years of experience. There will be sessions of interest to Veterans, new and beginning farmers, assistive technology providers, and rehabilitation professionals from all areas. There will also be our annual auction on Wednesday night.

Our goal is to ensure that your time in Knoxville is both fruitful and fun. If at any time you experience a problem of any kind, have a concern to share, or have a suggestion to improve next year's event, please feel free to visit with anyone wearing a HOST badge. We will do everything in our power to be helpful and responsive.

As in the past, you are encouraged to reach out and connect with others in attendance. Who knows who you will meet and how very special they are. You might even make a new friend!

Have a great time!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William C. Field". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'W' and 'F'.

Bill Field

National AgrAbility Project Director

2017 AgrAbility National Training Workshop

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- 1:00-4:00 pm** **New Staff Training** – *Cumberland*
- 1:00-4:00 pm** **Reducing the Risk of Secondary Injury and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness for AgrAbility Clientele** – *LeConte*
- 1:00-4:00 pm** **Offsite Tour** – *East Tennessee Technology Access Center*
- 4:30-6:30 pm** **Welcome Reception**
Enjoy light refreshments
Dinner on your own

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

- 7:00-8:15 am** **Breakfast** – *Medallion/Carriage*
- 8:30 am** **Opening Session** – *Medallion/Carriage*
- 10:00 am** **Break**
- 10:30 am** **Breakout Session A**
Crystal • Project Director (PI) Session
Cumberland • FSA/USDA New/Beginning Farmer Outreach
LeConte • App Bingo
Summit • Using Agriculture as a Form of Self Therapy
• Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Disabled Farmers
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch** – *Medallion/Carriage*
Farmer Lunch – *Restaurant - Lobby Level*
- 1:30 pm** **Breakout Session B**
Crystal • Working with your 1890 Institution
• Two Studies: AgrAbility Experimental-Control Group Differences & AgrAbility Demographic Findings
Cumberland • TN New Farmer Academy
• Farming Financially- Planning for a Profit
LeConte • Upgrading the Work Assessment Tool
• Assistive Technology to Prevent Secondary Injury
Summit • Farmer Veterans Panel
- 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:30 pm** **Breakout Session C**
Crystal • Who Gains the Most from AgrAbility? What Works Best to Enhance Our Clients' Quality of Life and Independent Living and Working Levels – A New Case Studies Project
Cumberland • Tracking 2015 Work-Related Farm Injuries in MI
LeConte • You Snooze, You WIN!
Summit • Developing a Statement of Values and Code of Values for AgrAbility
• Social Media and Digital Outreach for AgrAbility Programs
• Agriculture and Veterans: Gaining Ground
- 5:00 pm** **Dinner on your own**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

- 7:00-8:15 am** **Breakfast** – *Medallion/Carriage*
- 8:30 am** **Breakout Session A**
Crystal • Farming with a disability: Perspectives of minority farmers in Eastern North Carolina
• Core Competencies for AgrAbility Staff
Cumberland • Farmland Forever Through a Land Trust
LeConte • Sustainability for AgrAbility Programs
Summit • Coops for Troops – Getting Veteran Farmers started with Coops
• Emerging Technological Solutions for Farmers with Disabilities
- 10:00 am** **Break**
- 10:30 am** **Breakout Session B**
Crystal • What to Expect When Working with Voc. Rehab.
Cumberland • Beginning Farmer Program and Succession Planning
LeConte • Using the HAAT Model to Identify Appropriate AT
Summit • Urban Gardens: People Places and Partnerships
- 11:20 am** **General Session: U.S. Government Program Updates for Veterans and Military Transition Panel Discussion** – *Medallion/Carriage*
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch with “The Next Mission” Video** – *Medallion/Carriage*
- 1:30 pm** **Breakout Session C**
Crystal • International Panel
Cumberland • Assistive Technology (AT) Show and Tell
LeConte • Using The International Classification of Functioning to Enhance Your Program
Summit • Mental Challenges of Farming with a Brain Injury
• Planning and Maintaining a Useful Farm Shop
• Market Farm and Garden Assistive Technology
- 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:30 pm** **Breakout Session D**
Crystal • AgrAbility and Vocational Rehabilitation: Working Together to Help Missouri Farmers and Ranchers Choose Agriculture as a Viable Vocation
Cumberland • Using LED Lighting on AgrAbility Farmsteads
LeConte • Universal Design on the Farm: Planning for Safety and Efficiency
Summit • Keeping Kids Safe on the Farm
• Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
• Managing Risks of On-Farm Poultry Processing
• I have ___ acres, what do I do with it?
- 6:00 pm** **Dinner, Keynote Address, and Auction**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

- 7:15 am** **Pick up breakfast and board buses for tours**
- 7:45-4:00 pm** **Offsite Tours**

Dedication

The 2017 AgrAbility National Training Workshop is dedicated to two long time staff members of the National AgrAbility Team. This past July and August we lost both Kylie Hendress and Cliff Racz. Both contributed much to both the past successes of the annual workshops and the overall impact of the AgrAbility Program.



Kylie Hendress

On August 10, 2016, Kylie Hendress passed away due to complications during childbirth. She left her husband, Nick, a daughter, Kenzie, age 4, and Josslyn, a newborn.

Kylie was the engine that powered the National Training Workshop over the past several years. Kylie knew almost every farmer who attended by name, and insured their needs were met. While at the workshop she never rested until the needs of every participant were addressed or they were safely on their way home. She was responsible for adding a social media dimension to the AgrAbility outreach agenda leading us into the 21st Century.



Cliff Racz

On July 15, 2016, Cliff Racz, age 38, passed away unexpectedly at his home. Cliff was father to: Clifford James, Elijah, Gideon, Zacchaeus, and Maya. He also served as the compassionate “assistive technology provider” for his brother Charles, who lived with a severe disability from birth, until he passed away in 2014.

Cliff was the brains and technician behind the development of the AgrAbility website (www.agrability.org). He was our “go-to-guy” for all things electronic. At the time of his death he had nearly completed the requirements for his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering.

There will be a special opportunity at the workshop to participate in a fund drive with the proceeds going equally to both Kylie and Cliff’s families.

2017 AgrAbility National Training Workshop Program

MONDAY, MARCH 20

1:00-4:00pm | Offsite Tour: East Tennessee Technology Access Center

Load at Park View Lobby Doors. 

Paula Jones, ETTAC, TN AgrAbility partner, Rehabilitation Counselor

The **East Tennessee Technology Access Center (ETTAC)** is a regional nonprofit agency that helps people with disabilities gain knowledge about and access to assistive technology devices. These devices help people with disabilities gain education and employment skills, perform activities of daily living, and lead more independent, productive lives. ETTAC's assistive technology equipment is used for assessment and training, and some devices may also be available for loan. There will be a \$15.00 fee to attend.

Pre-conference Sessions

1:00-4:00pm | Cumberland | New Staff Training

Presenters: National AgrAbility Project – Bill Field, Paul Jones, Steve Swain, Steve Etheridge, Sierra Royster, JoBeth Rath, Tess McKeel

USDA/NIFA – Aida Balsano

This session gives an overview of the AgrAbility Program for new staff members, those wanting a refresher or those wishing to learn about AgrAbility. Some topics covered include a perspective from USDA, the role of the National Project, resources available, evaluation procedures, and sources of help inside and outside AgrAbility. Participants will also have opportunities to network with one another, NAP staff, and USDA contacts.

1:00-4:00pm | LeConte | Reducing the Risk of Secondary Injury and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness for AgrAbility Clientele

Presenters: Bill Field, National AgrAbility Project

This professional development session will focus on the problem of secondary injuries including occupation-related deaths and their impact on agricultural producers and workers. Additional topics include emergency preparedness for people with disabilities in rural areas and farm safety issues, such as tractor safety. The fee for this session is \$25.00.

4:30-6:30pm | Opening Reception

Light refreshments will be served. Dinner is on your own.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

7:00-8:15am | Medallion /Carriage | Breakfast

NAP Evaluation Committee Meeting

8:30-10:00am | Medallion /Carriage | Opening Session

Welcomes from:

- Dr. Bill Field, National AgrAbility Project
- Tim Prather, Tennessee AgrAbility
- Dr. Roy Bullock, Tennessee State University, Extension Professor and Agriculture Program Leader
- Louis Buck, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, East TN Public Affairs, International Marketing
- Stephanie Cook, ADA Coordinator of Knoxville

Featured Speaker: Aida Balsano, USDA/NIFA

Conference Instructions

10:00-10:30am | Break

10:30-12:00pm | Breakout Session A

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

10:30-12:00pm | Project Director (PI) Session

Aida Balsano, USDA

The USDA program leader will meet with SRAP principal investigators for questions, answers, and discussion.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

10:30-12:00pm | FSA/USDA New Beginning Farmer Outreach

Amanda Robertson, USDA/FSA  

In this session participants will learn about the Beginning Farmer Initiative at USDA. Various agencies such as the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Rural Development, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Risk Management Agency will be discussed. Also, information about various initiatives, Urban Agriculture, Women in Agriculture, and Veterans will be provided. USDA is striving to become a one-stop-shop while providing adequate services to beginning farmers across Rural America. At USDA there is a place for everyone!

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

10:30-12:00pm | Unconferencing Session- App Bingo: Trying Out Apps and Finding New Favorites

Wade Wingle-INDATA, Brian Norton-INDATA, Shawn Ehlers-National AgrAbility

With so many things to get done each day it seems inevitable that there is always something that gets missed or forgotten. These often small but important things could be errands to run, small chores to do or even bills to pay, and over time they can leave you feeling overwhelmed and stressed. In this session, there will be an open discussion about everyday apps and tools that participants use for reminding, scheduling and organizing. The leaders will provide tablet devices for participants, so don't worry if you don't have one with you. We will also discuss the accessibility features of today's mobile devices and explore app resources (Bridging Apps, AppleVis, Android resources, etc.) for identifying and choosing the right tools and discuss how to effectively apply them into our often busy and hectic schedules.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

10:30-12:00pm | Farmer Veterans Panel

This panel of farmer veterans will discuss their personal histories and the reason(s) that they currently farm; how they started their farming enterprises and the resources that were helpful to them; barriers and frustrations they faced along the way; farming with disabilities, and more! We will open the discussion up for questions at the end of the presentations.

12:00-1:30pm | Medallion/Carriage | Lunch

12:00-1:30pm | Restaurant - Lobby Level | Farmer/Rancher Lunch

1:30-3:00pm | Breakout Session B

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

1:30-2:10pm | Working with your 1890 Institution

A 1890s panel presentation and open discussion of how enhanced collaborations can be achieved to maximize AgrAbility's outreach to the clientele being served by these institutions.

2:20-3:00pm | Two Studies: AgrAbility Experimental-Control Group Differences & AgrAbility Demographic Findings

Robert Fetsch, Colorado AgrAbility and National AgrAbility Project

From previous program evaluation with 399 AgrAbility clients, we found that there were no differences in type of disability and Quality of Life (QOL) levels (Jackman, Fetsch & Collins, 2016). We also found in a study of 191 AgrAbility participants in 10 states that their Independent Living and Working Levels (ILW) and QOL levels improved ($p < .001$) (Fetsch, Jackman & Collins, 2016). Finally, we found in an experimental-control group study that AgrAbility participants ($N = 215$) reported statistically significant presurvey-postsurvey improvements in QOL levels while control group participants ($N = 100$) reported no change in QOL levels (Fetsch & Turk, 2016). We are beginning to ascertain from 25 years of AgrAbility demographic data who we serve, what their disabilities are, and much more. In this session, we will summarize the results of these latter two studies and discuss practical steps AgrAbility teams can take.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

1:30-2:10pm | TN New Farmer Academy

Finis Stribling, TN AgrAbility

The Tennessee New Farmer Academy is a seven-month certificate program designed for those with an interest in becoming agricultural entrepreneurs. Ideal candidates for this program include those who are new to agriculture, those who wish to transition into agriculture from another field such as military service or private sector work, or those who are looking for a post-retirement opportunity. The program focuses on teaching the concepts, providing the information, and facilitating the hands-on experience needed to build solid, viable, and successful agricultural businesses.

2:20-3:00pm | Farming Financially- Planning for a Profit

Adam Hopkins, UT Extension, Farm Management Area Specialist, Manage Program

Successful farming requires more than a bountiful crop and production knowledge. The process of goal setting, business planning, and budgeting is as important for new and beginning farmers as it is for experienced agricultural producers.

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

1:30-2:10pm | Upgrading the Work Assessment Tool

Steve Swain, National AgrAbility Project

This unconferencing session will examine the current NAP Worksite Assessment Tool and develop recommendations for simplifying and updating the tool for AgrAbility staff. It will examine the feasibility and usefulness of mobile versions and developing an app.

2:20-3:00pm | Assistive Technology to Prevent Secondary Injury in Aging Farmers

Ned Stoller, MI AgrAbility

The average age of farmers nationwide is in the mid-50's. As workers age, they are faced with increasing rates of arthritis, back pain, decreased strength/endurance, hearing impairments and other medical conditions. These conditions increase the likelihood of slips and falls, being pushed by fast-moving livestock, accidents with machinery and other dangers. Assistive technology can help mitigate the impact of aging conditions and help older farmers work with more safely. The older farm workers often have the most experience and best judgment for business decisions. When an older worker sustains a secondary injury, it disrupts the flow of farm work, costs significant financial resources to pay medical bills, and removes a major player in the farm business from the day-to-day operations. The cost of assistive technology and safety is significantly less than the expense of injury on the farm.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

1:30-2:10pm | Using Agriculture as a form of Self Therapy

Presenter: Malachias Gaskin, Veteran, Warfighter Gardens, Self-Therapy PTSD centers and Honor 22 Farms

The Warfighter Garden/Honor22Farms Session is based on using alternative methods of self-therapy for PTSD and TBI. (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.) It covers Malachias' approach to self-starting, self-motivation, and self-therapy. And then about taking it to the next level and introducing the concept to fellow veterans and first responders. It focuses on Agriculture as the form and also includes music, faith, and other forms of artistic or creative expression.

2:20-3:00pm | Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Disabled Farmers

Charley Jordan, Military veteran, farmer veteran, career aviator, licensed commercial sUAS operator, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Attendees will learn about the sUAS with a basic introduction to what systems are available. Attendees will receive information on what the current rules and regulations are for the use of sUAS and have a presentation on the applications for the disabled farmer.

3:00-3:30pm | Break

3:30-5:00pm | Breakout Session C

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

3:30-4:10pm | Who Gains the Most from AgrAbility? What Works Best to Enhance Our Clients' Quality of Life and Independent Living and Working Levels – A New Case Studies Project

Robert Fetsch, Colorado AgrAbility; Paige Tidwell, Institute on Human Development & Disability, The UG College of Family and Consumer Sciences

This session will begin by briefly reviewing previous research findings. Participants will then be invited to draw on their professional experiences in targeting and shaping a future research study that examines changes in AgrAbility clients' QOL levels. Finally, using the ideas generated from both our recent research and from today's discussion, participants will discuss ways of improving their work and will generate possible questions we could ask to reveal specific reasons for QOL changes.

4:20-5:00pm | Tracking 2015 Work-Related Farm Injuries in Michigan

Joanna Kica, MI AgrAbility

In 2015, Michigan initiated surveillance system of farm injuries in Michigan. Discharge summaries and ED evaluations from all 136 of Michigan's hospitals/emergency departments (EDs) with specific ICD-9 (E861.4, E866.5, E950.6) and ICD-10 (T65.0-.1, V80, Y92.7, W55.1-.4, W30) codes were reviewed to identify work-related farm injuries.

We identified 678 work-related and 1,408 non work-related farm injuries in 2015. There were an additional 16 agricultural fatalities. Eight individuals had two separate agricultural injury incidents. Data was not available on illnesses such as heart disease or stroke requiring hospitalizations or ER

Special Interest Key:  Farmers/Ranchers

visits. Information about the Michigan AgrAbility Program was mailed to ten farmers whose injury suggested they would have ongoing serious impairment. Demographics of injured farm workers, occupation type, part of body injured, medical encounter type, injury source, and type of farm will be presented.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

3:30-5:00pm | You Snooze, You WIN!

Emily Freudenburg, NE AgrAbility; Susan Harris-Broomfield, NE AgrAbility

Are you wired and tired? Having trouble sleeping? Not only does lack of sleep affect your mental and physical health, it messes with your ability to think clearly and make good decisions to stay safe while you work. As a result, injuries on the farm or ranch can happen more frequently. Learn tricks to get better sleep for a safer, happier, more active you.

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

3:30-4:10pm | Unconferencing Session – Developing a Statement of Values and Code of Values for AgrAbility

Robert Turner, National AgrAbility

Unconferencing session which explores the need for, and development of, a Statement of Values and Code of Values for AgrAbility. Essential questions explored to provoke thought and stimulate discussion.

4:20-5:00pm | Social Media and Digital Outreach for AgrAbility Programs

Abi Jensen and Brian Luck, WI AgrAbility

Is your social media and digital outreach strategy working for your AgrAbility project? Join us to discuss how to begin or advance your social media and digital strategies to help your program reach more. Topics covered will include the benefits of social media and digital marketing for AgrAbility programs, how to implement simple, yet effective strategies, and ways to analyze those strategies to ensure it is working for your program.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

3:30-5:00pm | Agriculture and Veterans: Gaining Ground

Karen Funkenbusch, MO AgrAbility; Maureen Cunningham, Brain Injury Association of Missouri

Approximately 17% of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, but rural residents account for 44% of our military. Today's conflicts are different and the impact on our service members and their families goes beyond the battlefield. Many of our brave men and women are reintegrating into our rural, agricultural communities with scars that are not just physical, but behavioral, emotional, and spiritual - behaviors change; relationships are altered and families are impacted. Veterans are returning from war to their farms, ranches, and rural communities with disabilities such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorders. Support through USDA programs for Beginning and Veteran Farmers / Ranchers are available to help start up agricultural entrepreneurship and agribusinesses. This session will inform participants about 1) opportunities for veterans with interests in becoming involved in agriculture and 2) resources to assist veterans who want to engage in traditional agriculture and non-traditional agricultural entrepreneurship and agribusinesses. Examples of efforts in Missouri and other states will be shared. Resource materials developed by Veterans for Veterans will be provided.

5:00pm | Dinner on your own

 Veterans  Assistive Technology

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

7:00-8:15am | Medallion/Carriage | Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00am | Breakout Session A

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

8:30-9:10am | Farming with a Disability: Perspectives of Minority Farmers in Eastern North Carolina

Ari Mwachofi and Robin Tutor-Marcon, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute & Brody School of Medicine, NC AgrAbility

The session will discuss research findings of the perceptions, needs, access and knowledge of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Eastern North Carolina. The objective of the research was to determine the disability-associated needs of minority farmers in NC, whether they had information about available services; obstacles to accessing services; types of services needed; and methods of improving access to services.

In this exploratory study, information was gathered from minority farmers through four focus groups with African American, Latino farmers, Native American farmers and with women farmers in Eastern North Carolina. The discussions were taped, transcribed, and analyzed using Nvivo – a qualitative data analysis package.

The study found that minority farmers have different perceptions about disability, are unaware of services available, and of methods of accessing such services. The study also found that income eligibility requirements systematically exclude farmers from accessing VR services in North Carolina.

9:20-10:00am | Core Competencies for AgrAbility Staff

Bill Field, National AgrAbility Project

AgrAbility staff members come from a wide range of backgrounds with a variety of strengths. Some specialize in agriculture, some in rehabilitation, and still others in things like marketing or case management. So what are the basic skills that AgrAbility staff members need? This session will provide information and elicit input from attendees about the content and the dissemination strategies for the NAP's Core Competency Initiative.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

8:30-10:00am | Farmland Forever Through a Land Trust

Gary Moore, The Land Trust for TN; Anne McKinney, Attorney

This presentation will be a PowerPoint with an explanation of what land trusts do and then set up a large white board-4' x 6'- to show how the income tax deduction works.

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

8:30-10:00am | "Unconferencing" Sustainability for AgrAbility Programs

JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and National AgrAbility

Government funding is not a promise, and increases in funding are not likely to match increased expenses. Learn about resources such as in-kind support, volunteer staff, or shared resources, and how they can play a role in your success and sustainability. This unconferencing session will also allow for idea-sharing among participants. Share your ideas, your challenges, and what has worked! Learn from others as they share their stories.

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Special Interest Key:  Farmers/Ranchers

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

8:30-9:10am | Coops for Troops- Getting Veteran farmers started with Coops

Brad Hauter, Faded Jeans Productions/Coops for Troops

Coops for Troops will provide chickens, a coop, a starter pack of feed and supplies to returning veterans, the families of deployed military personnel, military schools, and VA hospitals and retirement homes. Chickens have been shown to be great therapy animals...they promote bonding and responsibility, provide companionship and entertainment and can reduce stress and anxiety. We know they can make a difference for those who feel isolated, depressed, anxious and alone.

9:20-10:00am | Emerging Technological Solutions for Farmers with Disabilities

Glen Raines, AgrAbility in Georgia

Current and future technologies, already incorporated in the automobiles and industrial settings can also be used in agriculture to reduce exposure to injury and health issues. For farmers with disabilities it can reduce the incidence of secondary injury and provide methods to improve their ability to continue farming practices with reduced risk. Voice-controls, GPS tracking and autonomous and semi-autonomous equipment can make farming much easier for elderly farmers and farmers with moderate to severe disabilities. This session will discuss these new and emerging technologies.

10:00-10:30am | Break

10:30-11:10am | Breakout Session B

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

10:30-11:10am | What to Expect When Working with VR

Jim Brinkman, MO Rehabilitation Services for the Blind; Lee Howerton, MO farmer and AgrAbility Client; Karen Funkenbusch, MO AgrAbility

Vocational Rehabilitation is a valuable resource to help individuals meet their employment goals. In Missouri, VR services for people with visual disabilities are delivered by a state agency called Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB). Jim Brinkmann, District Supervisor Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind will briefly discuss the regulations governing the federally-mandated vocational rehabilitation program and how it pertains to farmers and ranchers. He will also share information about how an AgrAbility Program can develop a working relationship with VR rehabilitation counselors, Clients and AgrAbility staff members. Lee Howerton, Missouri Farmer and AgrAbility Client will talk about how and when the VR process was used (or not used) along with his successful outcomes.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

10:30-11:10am | Beginning Farmer Program and Succession Planning

Paul Leverenz and Brian Luck, WI AgrAbility

A grant from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provided funding for a three-year project, Securing Beginning Farmers Through Succession Planning. The project addresses the need of Wisconsin farmers who do not have succession plans in place, estimated at 56% of farmers over the age of 55, to ensure the successful transition of farm operations to the next generation of beginning farmers. The purpose of this session is to inform state AgrAbility programs on the current project outcomes and information to help strengthen or develop succession and transition planning services provided.

 Veterans  Assistive Technology

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

10:30-11:10am | Using the HAAT Model to Identify Appropriate Assistive Technology

Ned Stoller, MI AgrAbility

The Human Activity Assistive Technology (HAAT) model is a systematic framework to evaluate assistive technology needs. There is a serious problem with abandoned assistive technology because of incomplete evaluations. Many times assistive technology is purchased for a worker before the big picture is understood. A funder or assistive technology professional might quickly assume that a certain wheelchair or device will help someone do necessary tasks. However, without understanding the person's culture, emotions, finances, abilities, work environment, and activities it is impossible to make good AT recommendations. This session will emphasize the need to fully evaluate a worker's situation to increase the likelihood of the AT being used successfully.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

10:30-11:10am | Urban Gardens: People, Places, and Partnerships

Laura Agkerman, Dee Jepsen, Lisa Pfeifer, OH AgrAbility

How does urban gardening fit the mission of AgrAbility? Does the garden have to be an income producer, or can lessons learned in the garden be applied to your work with rural clients? This session will consider the partnerships, people and places involved in urban and community gardening, and the benefits and obstacles to collaboration. At the end of the session, participants will have ideas for how to leverage their networks and expertise to develop a plan for urban or community gardens.

11:20-12:00pm | Medallion/Carriage | General Session

U.S. Government Program Updates for Veterans and Military Transition Panel

Mike Alston, Acting Deputy Undersecretary Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services and Military Veteran Agricultural Liaison for USDA

Dr. Karin Orvis, Acting Director, Transition to Veteran Program Office, Department of Defense

Jaime Wood, Director, Policy & Engagement, Office of Veterans Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

Each of these government partners will discuss updates in their respective programs to help transitioning military and veterans succeed in their post-military career. Learn the process the USDA, DoD and SBA partners take to provide a quality, evidence-based program that affords Service Members the time and resources throughout their military careers to prepare to succeed in both their military and post-military career goals. Collaborations with public and private-sector organizations that provide transitioning Service Members with career and training opportunities to help them thrive as veterans will be discussed. Each panelist will welcome audience questions.

12:00-1:30pm | Medallion/Carriage | Lunch

Viewing of "The Next Mission: Breaking Down Barriers for Veterans in Agriculture" video

1:30-3:00pm | Breakout Session C

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

1:30-3:00pm | International Panel

Bill Field, National AgrAbility

Learn how farmers with disabilities are being served around the world. Specific case studies will be presented and overviews of how rehabilitation services are provided will be addressed. This session will be especially interesting to folks who are interested in an international dimension of rehabilitation programs for rural and farm families.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

1:30-3:00pm | Assistive Technology Show and Tell

Steve Swain, National AgrAbility

This session will be a show-and-tell with various suppliers of assistive technologies applicable to farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

1:30-2:10pm | Using The International Classification of Functioning to enhance your program

Derrick Stowell, MS, CTRS, HTR- UT Gardens

This session will explore the concepts of functioning, disability and health and how that can impact one's vocation. We will then look at the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning and see how this resource can be utilized in an agriculture/horticulture vocational setting. The ICF Core Set for Vocational Rehabilitation (ICF-VR) can assist us in understanding barriers for tasks associated with work. Results from using ICF-VR can help develop plans for improving overall functioning and allow farmers/workers to get back to doing what they do best, farm. The University of Tennessee Gardens has developed vocational training programs with four programs serving youth and young adults with disabilities. Examples of these programs will be discussed during the presentation. This session will be hands on and participants will get an opportunity to take part in a horticulture activity to practice using the ICF Core Set for Vocational Rehabilitation.

2:20-3:00pm | Mental Challenges of Farming with a Brain Injury

Blaine Kemna, Farmer and MO AgrAbility Client and Karen Funkenbusch, MO AgrAbility

Running an independent business, such as a farm, is a challenge for a healthy person let alone a person with a brain injury. The multiple facets of such an endeavor make it hard for a person with diminished memory capacity to accomplish without some sort of help. I try to use some of the things I learned in the RUSK program and things I learned while in college to help me keep all my information in order. I am also learning of many other devices available to keep us safe out on the farm.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

1:30-2:10pm | Planning and Maintaining a Useful Farm Shop

Dick Brzozowski, ME AgrAbility

The shop is often a major hub of a farming or ranching operation. Learn how to plan or adapt space for a farm shop. The presentation will include a discussion of typical tasks performed in farm shops as well as essential equipment, power tools, hand tools and shop supplies.

2:20-3:00pm | Market Farm and Garden Assistive Technology

Ned Stoller, MI AgrAbility

Many people with medical impairments have small tracts of land that they use to grow vegetables and produce to sell at farm markets. The physical labor involved in seeding, propagating, planting, weeding, watering, pruning, harvesting, washing, marketing produce and then cleaning up the field for next year is intense. It is rewarding work and can be financially profitable, but the physical effort required can prohibit the worker from being successful. Assistive technology and growing methods can enable the worker to be independent on the farm, and have a greater likelihood of success.

3:00-3:30pm | Break

3:30-5:00pm | Breakout Session D

TRACK 1 | CRYSTAL

3:30-5:00pm | AgrAbility and Vocational Rehabilitation: Working Together to Help Missouri Farmers and Ranchers Choose Agriculture as a Viable Vocation

James Brinkmann, MO Rehabilitation Services for the Blind; Karen Funkenbusch, MO AgrAbility; David Middleton, MO AgrAbility

Vocational Rehabilitation is a valuable resource to help individuals meet their employment goals. In Missouri, VR services for farmers and ranchers with visual disabilities are delivered by a state agency called Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and Missouri AgrAbility have collaborated to provide services to farmers and ranchers for the past fifteen years. This session will focus on issues related to eligibility, the basics on business plans for an agricultural entrepreneurship, agribusiness, or farming/ranching operation as it begins, changes or expands, and what rehabilitation counselors need from AgrAbility staff in order to best serve Client needs. Presenters will review the process they use in their state to facilitate developing a viable plan; assessing a client's need; and recommending support by the VR counselor Client and AgrAbility staff. Case studies will be presented to show how and when the VR process was used (or not used) along with successful outcomes.

TRACK 2 | CUMBERLAND

3:30-4:10pm | Using LED Lighting on AgrAbility Farmsteads

Charlie Landis and Dee Jepsen, OH AgrAbility

The session will present information about sight impairment and the use of LED lighting for agriculture applications. Besides functionality of the technology, there is also a cost savings with these fixtures which will be examined. This session will highlight various farmstead facilities and equipment to focus on the practical application of LED's on the farm.

4:20-5:00pm | Universal Design on the Farm: Planning for Safety and Efficiency

Ellen Gibson, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England and Ketra Crosson, Alpha One

Bad design disables. Good design enables. Universal design is an approach to the way we live and work. Its goal is to design tools, consumer products, homes and worksites that can be used by the widest range of people, regardless of age and ability. Why is it important?

TRACK 3 | LECONTE

3:30-4:10pm | Keeping Kids Safe on the Farm

Leilani Carlson and Dick Brzozowski, ME AgrAbility

In the United States, a child dies in an agriculture-related incident every 3 days, and each day, 33 children are injured. Based on the statistics, farm machinery has made agriculture more dangerous for kids, but safe and age-appropriate farm tasks are good for kids. Agriculture offers many opportunities for them to develop work skills while gaining an appreciation for farming and related industries. Come learn more about how to keep kids safe on the farm.

4:20-5:00pm | Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living

Sierra Royster, APRIL 

Independent Living (IL) is not about doing things by yourself, but about having choices how things are done. In rural America, we understand the value of a community and helping out your fellow farmers, ranchers, and neighbors when needed. That is the foundation of IL, drawing upon the strengths and experiences of the disability community. Learn about the organization of APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living), the Independent Living philosophy and how we are partnering with AgrAbility. Find out how you may be able to find, partner with, or benefit from Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and/or Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) in your area including reaching and engaging rural youth with disabilities.

TRACK 4 | SUMMIT

3:30-4:10pm | Managing Risks of On-farm Poultry Processing

Hal Pepper, UT Center for Profitable Agriculture

We will discuss USDA exemptions for on-farm poultry processing, labeling requirements and facility, equipment and operating costs for poultry processing. We will also discuss some regulatory and food safety considerations

4:20-5:00pm | I have ____ acres. What do I do with it?

Steve Swain, National AgrAbility

As AgrAbility professionals, we have been asked this question. It might have been from a client looking to change enterprises or it could be from a veteran wanting to farm and does not know what to do with the assets he has. This session will examine the process and use a decision tree to guide our clients. It will provide links to business planning resources, enterprise budgets, and extension publications.

6:00-9:00pm | Medallion/Carriage | Banquet and Auction

Keynote Speaker- Ashlee Lundvall

Since a paralyzing ranching accident in 1999, Ashlee has been redefining her life. She is a champion for change in the many organizations she works with, encouraging everyone to live to the fullest. A natural outdoorswoman and adventurer with a powerful message of adaptability and perseverance, she energizes audiences around the country with her humor and authentic personal stories.

Passionate about accessible outdoor recreation, she lives in Cody, Wyoming with her husband and daughter. Depending on the season, Ashlee can be found camping, kayaking, hunting, fly fishing, or hand cycling while making a difference in board rooms, consulting businesses and mentoring newly injured patients and their families.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

7:15-8:00am | Holiday Inn – World’s Fair Park Entrance | Breakfast

Boxed breakfast will be available for pick up between 7:15am and 8:00am. Grab one early and enjoy in the nearby park, or grab one as you load your tour bus!

8:15-4:00pm | AT at UT Tour

8:00-8:15am | Holiday Inn – World’s Fair Park Entrance | Load Bus

8:30-11:30am | Offsite Tour – Discover AT at UT

Steve Swain, National AgrAbility; Welcome from Chancellor Cross, University of TN Institute of Agriculture

Participants will spend the day discovering Assistive Technology and tools as well as assessing worksites while on the UT campus. AT vendors will provide details on products, and opportunities to test them out and see them in action. Worksite Assessment activities will be woven into the day, providing participants with real opportunities for looking at the best alternatives to meet client needs and discuss options others may have utilized.

11:30-12:15pm | Lunch at Hollingworth Auditorium on the UT Campus

12:30-3:30pm | Continuation of AT at UT

3:30-3:45pm | Load Bus

4:00pm | Arrive back at Holiday Inn

7:45-4:00pm | Hydroponics, Organics, Value-added Agriculture and More! Tour (Half-Day Option Available)

7:45-8:00am | Holiday Inn – World’s Fair Park Entrance | Load Bus

9:00-10:30am | Tour Seven Springs Farm to Table

Located in Union County, TN is a multigenerational diversified farm business specializing in blueberries, muscadines, sweet corn, green beans, and other garden produce. They also raise all natural Angus beef and pork. They sell from the farm and at farmers markets. Tour will include the winery and vineyard, beef operation, farm store, and a custom Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

10:30-10:40am | Load Bus

11:30-12:15pm | Drop off at Hollingsworth Auditorium for Lunch

Drop off at the UT campus for the **Full Day** tour group.

11:45-11:55am | Holiday Inn – World’s Fair Park Entrance

Drop off at the hotel for the **Half Day** tour group

12:15-12:25 | Load Bus

12:35-2:05pm | East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center Organic Crops Unit (ETREC)

Paula Jones, ETTAC, TN AgrAbility partner, Rehabilitation Counselor

Seven miles south of UT’s Agriculture Campus, this 90-acre farm has 21 acres under production and 14 of those acres are certified organic. This farm provides land, equipment, and support for faculty and graduate students to conduct research, with a primary emphasis on sustainable and organic crop production. Additionally, there is an organic internship program at the farm, where undergraduate students get experience in all aspects of being a small, diversified vegetable grower. We will tour the seven high tunnels at the farm, featuring two research projects utilizing tomatoes. The aim of the first project is to investigate thermal protection strategies in high tunnels to extend the growing season without costly heaters. The second project involves evaluating the costs, benefits and ecosystem services of cover crops in year-round high tunnel production systems. There is also a newly renovated packing facility on the farm as well.

2:05-2:15pm | Load Bus

2:20-3:35pm | King’s Hydrofarm

This local organic CSA farm has been in business since 2007, utilizing hydroponic technology to grow fresh produce year round. Grow towers and traditional farming using organic methods and almost exclusively heirloom seeds, generate quality product popular with local restaurants, farmers markets and individuals at their U-pick operation.

3:35-3:45pm | Load Bus

4:00pm | Arrive back at Holiday Inn

Thanks to the 2017 AgrAbility National Training Workshop Committee

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