Assistive Technology for Dairy Farmers
- Wisconsin is ranked 1st in cheese production and 2nd in total milk production in the nation
- Agriculture is an $88.3 Billion industry with Dairy being the largest segment of that being a $43.4 Billion industry in Wisconsin
- AgrAbility of WI is made up of a partnership between UW Extension and Easter Seals Farm Assessment and Rehabilitation Methods (FARM) Program
- Of the 3,052 Clients AgrAbility of Wisconsin has served in the last 26 years, 56% are dairy farmers
Pennsylvania is ranked 6th in total milk production in the nation.

PA has the second largest number of dairy farms in the nation, currently 6,650 dairy farms with 99% being family owned.

AgrAbility PA has worked with 26 dairy farmers in the past two years.

Project Assistant - Abbie Spackman provides the farm evaluations for dairy farmers in PA.
Assistive Technology for Dairy Farmers

- Learn about the unique challenges dairy farmers face
- Gain knowledge of assistive technology that is available for dairy farmers
- Discuss success stories of assistive technology implemented on dairy farms
Unique Challenges

- Milking schedules
- Specific equipment
- Injuries from repetitive movements
- Generational injuries
- Financial challenges
Assistive Technology

- Automatic Take-off units
- Milking unit track system
- Crowd gates
- Air operated parlor gates
- Gutter grates
- Robotic milking unit
- Milk carts
- Milk Taxi
- Mobility devices

- Alley, Cow & Parlor mats
- One step milk line attachments
- Feed carts
- Types of parlors
- Milker support arm
- Strong Arm Lift
Milking Systems

- Milking Parlors
  - Parallel
  - Herringbone
  - Rotary
  - Step-up/Walk-Through
- Stall Barns
- Robotic systems
Parlors
Robotic Milking Systems
Milk unit track system
Milker Support Arm
Crowd Gate
Alley, Cow, & Parlor Mats
Automatic Take-off units
Milk Cart
Milk Taxi
Gutter Grates
Strong Arm Lift
Success Stories

Dairy farmers from Pennsylvania and Wisconsin using assistive technology on their farms!
Philip – 5th generation dairy farmer

- Farm Background
  - 60 milk cows
  - Modified flat parlor
  - Direct to consumer sales

- Respiratory and mobility related medical conditions

- Assistive technology funded by PA Vocational Rehab.
  - Gutter grates
  - Clean in place milking units
  - Automatic detachers
Dairy goat farmer – Todd

- Farm Background
  - Less than 1 acre of land
  - 20+ goats
  - Value added and direct to consumer sales

- Degenerative disk disease and extreme pain levels

- Assistive technology funded by PA Vocational Rehab.
  - Raised milking parlor
  - Feed related modifications
  - Adjustable-height desk for product packaging
Gary – young dairy farmer

- Farm Background
  - Double 8 Pit Parlor
  - 80 milking cows
- Medical Background
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
- Assistive technology
  - Automatic detachers
  - Crowd gate
  - Life Essentials lift
Faustone Holstein Farm

Striving to build a profitable legacy by focusing on the health of the soil and the well being of animals to have a positive effect on the health and well being of the people who consume food as well as the community members who experience the farm’s activities.
Adam’s Story
Thank you!

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