



State Assistive Technology Act Programs and AgrAbility Partnerships

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

- Marty Exline, Director – AT3 Center.
- Tammy Koger, Director – North Carolina Assistive Technology Program
- Beatriz Rodriquez, Manager – North Carolina AgrAbility Partnership Project

Basic Webinar Instructions

- Audio available through computer or phone.
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- Expand/contract any of the windows in the right-hand column with the arrows. May need to do this to see video of presenter.
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Basic Webinar Instructions

Questions and comments

- Go to the Chat option in the right-hand column. Please send to “All Panelists”. Enter message in box below TO and hit return. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.
- In addition, during the Q & A period, if you have a web microphone, click the “Raise Hand” icon to indicate that you have a question. We will enable your microphone or phone connection.

Basic Webinar Instructions

- Please let me know if more than one person is viewing at your computer
- 4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments
- Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at www.agrability.org/Online-Training
- Problems: use chat window or email jonesp@purdue.edu

AgrAbility: USDA–sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

- Partners land–grant universities with disability services organizations. Currently 20 state projects
- National AgrAbility Project: Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Partners include:
 - Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
 - APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living)
 - Colorado State University
 - Washington State University
- More information available at www.agrability.org

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Who Is Served by State AT Programs?

Each state is charged with serving their entire state's population – throughout the lifespan and there are no referrals needed to receive services.

There are four “State Level Activities” that almost every state assistive technology program provides: Device Demonstration, Device Loan, Device Reuse, and State Financing.

Assistive Technology *Demonstration* Programs

Provides opportunities for people to learn about and become familiar with specific types of AT by comparing and contrasting the functions and features of devices through hands-on explorations.



Assistive Technology *Device Loan* Programs

Allows individuals to borrow devices for a limited time period to use at home, school, work, etc. Device loans allow borrowers to try out devices in their own environments.



Assistive Technology *Reutilization* Programs

Supports the reuse of assistive technology that is no longer needed or used by its original owner. Recipients usually obtain equipment at significantly lower cost or no cost.



Assistive Technology State Financing Programs

State Financing Activities help individuals purchase/obtain AT through a variety of initiatives. Financial loan programs provide consumers with affordable, flexible borrowing options. Other programs provide AT directly to consumers at no cost using dollars from non-AT Act sources or save consumers money when purchasing AT.



For More Information:

For a complete copy of the current AT Act statute and additional information about the law, please visit the National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training Center website:
<https://www.at3center.net/>

For a list of State AT Program Directors, visit:
<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>

Or for additional questions, contact: Marty Exline
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NC AgrAbility Partnership And NC Assistive Technology

Beatriz Rodriguez, Manager
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AgrAbility and Assistive Technology Webinar, April 24, 2019

North Carolina Agricultural Industry contributes \$87 billion annually to the state's economy

1 Industry of the state

North Carolina is home to more than 80 commodities

More than 50,200 farms in NC



North Carolina is gaining about 100,000 people per year

Loss of 2,700 farms annually

Demand for food continues to grow

Support conservation farmland

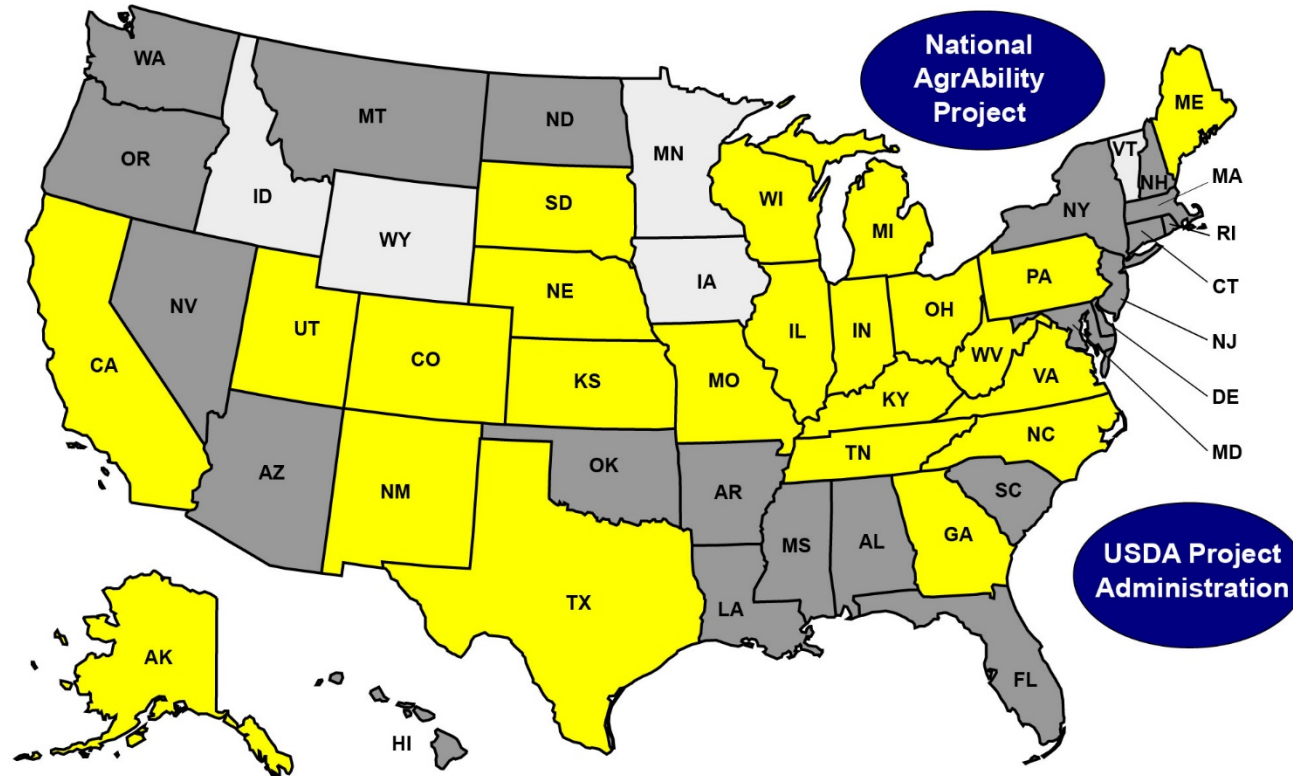
Source: NCDA

Mission

To educate and assist farmers, ranchers, farmworkers and their family members farming with disabilities to enable them to stay actively engaged in production agriculture.



Our job is keep farmers, ranchers and farmworkers safe and healthy!



- ❖ The partnership is endorsed by the National AgrAbility Project, NAP, which supports state and regional programs.
- ❖ Involves Collaborative partnership between land grant universities and nonprofit disability service organizations.
- ❖ Funded in October 2011
- ❖ Currently 4th year of 2nd Grant
- ❖ Serving 100 counties

**Direct
Services**

Education

**Improve Quality of
Life**

**Awareness
and
Advocacy**

Networking



Direct Services



Higher cost solutions

- Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Grants
 - Cost share programs
 - Low cost AT loans
 - USDA loans
- Community programs
 - Farmer or Rancher

Less cost items

- Student projects
- Volunteer days
- Business plan development

Summary of Benefit of the Partnership

- Assistive technology expertise
- On-site farm and assistive technology assessments
- Demonstration and short-term loan of devices
- Link to community resources and funding options for assistive technology equipment and medical/disability resources
- Create awareness and advocates for the needs of farmers with disabilities

NC Assistive Technology Program:

- Funded under the Assistive Technology Act at the federal level
- North Carolina: receives state appropriations and provided fee for service activities
 - » State agency under the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services/north-carolina-assistive-technology-program>
- Serves all 100 counties in North Carolina
- Serves individuals of all ages and abilities
 - » Includes individuals with medical and/or disability related concerns
 - » Family members and care givers
 - » Employers and professionals



NCATP and NC AgrAbility Partnership:

- Provide assessments, farm assessments, training, and technical assistance
- Provide hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology (AT)
- Provide short-term AT equipment loans
- Provide AT resource information and referral to other programs
- Provide awareness activities on AT and overview of services.
- Provide advocacy and funding resource information
- Access to reused assistive technology devices
- AT financing: <https://www.self-help.org/personal/loans/other-loans/assistive-technology-loans>

NCATP and NC AgrAbility Partnership:

- Provide on-site farm and home assessments
 - » Report goes to NC AgrAbility Project Manager
 - » Copy of the report may go the DVRS Counselor(release must be provided)
 - Recommendations center around farming and/or activities on the farm
- Provide demonstrations and short term equipment loans
- Make referrals and link to resources
 - A referral is typically made to the local DVRS office
- Follow up after assessments providing on-going information, as needed
- Work with DVRS counselor and engineer regarding AT related needs
- Set up and training of AT devices, as needed
- Provide group trainings/workshops on farming and assistive technology

NCATP and NC AgrAbility Partnership:

■ Farm and AgrAbility Related Demos and Loans:

- 2 week short term loan program (can be longer, if needed)
- Device demonstrations to anyone in NC
- Low tech equipment:
 - - Ergonomic grips and handles
 - - Kneelers
 - - Small wagons and other small tools
- High tech equipment:
 - - Communication boards
 - - Tablets/apps
 - - Lift system (Access Unlimited)



NCATP and NC AgrAbility Partnership:

■ Awareness Activities:

- » Veteran farming and assistive technology workshops
- » Farming with a disability
- » Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor training:
 - AgrAbility and Farming in NC
 - Unite office and counselor sessions
- » Peer Support Workshops/Training
 - AT Demo Days
 - Disability rights and resources



NCATP and NC AgrAbility Partnership:

■ Resource Connection:

Centers for Independent Living: Peer and advocacy

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

- Disability resources
- Possible funding for AT related devices

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)

- Disability resources
- Possible funding for AT related devices

Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)

- Disability resource
- Funding for hearing aides, if needed

Self-Help Credit Union

- Alternative Finance Program (financial loans for AT/DME)



Connect With NC AgrAbility

- Like us on Facebook: NC AgrAbility
- Visit our website www.ncagrability.org
- Contact us to refer a farmer
- Join Our NC AgrAbility List Serve