USDA/NIFA Welcome

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
2019 AgrAbility NTW
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Overview

• USDA and NIFA
• NIFA AgrAbility Program Management
• About the AgrAbility Program
• Functions, Roles and Expectations
• Reporting Requirements
• Contact
NIFA’s Integrated Approach to Science

**RESEARCH**
Provides answers to complex issues facing our nation and our world

**EDUCATION**
Strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers and citizens.

**EXTENSION**
Takes knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it the most.
NIFA’s Integrated Approach to Science
AgrAbility Oversight at NIFA

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AgrAbility Program Mission

Support state and regional projects in developing their capacity to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities, and their families, who are engaged in farming and farm-related occupations.
Disability Language vis-à-vis AgrAbility

The person first and the disability second - Person-First Language (farmer with a disability vs. disabled farmer).

Emphasis is on abilities and assistive technology role, not limitations.

Use language that emphasizes the need for accessibility rather than the presence of a disability.

Create balanced human interest stories.
History of AgrAbility

• Authorized through the 1990 Farm Bill.
  – Modeled after state programs that assisted agricultural workers in VT, IA, and IN.
  – Authorized partnership between LGU and non-profit organizations serving individuals with disabilities.
  – Established funding recommendation.
  – Provided guidance on eligible programs.

• Appropriated under Smith-Lever 3(d)

  Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety line item
History of AgrAbility cont.

• Competitive grants program.

• The program funds:
  – State and Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs);
  – one National AgrAbility Project (NAP).

• Projects are funded for up to 4 years.
AgrAbility Program Focus

• Increased knowledge of practices and activities for farmers with disabilities.

• Increased appropriate assistance options.

• Improved modifications that increase independence and productivity.

• Increased chance that individuals with disabilities and their families can continue to be successfully involved in production agriculture.
AgrAbility Program Implementation

• Education - long term investment strategy
• Assistance
• Marketing
• Networking
• Evaluation
AgrAbility Funds DO NOT Support

- Paying for assistive technology or other farm site modifications
- Soliciting other federal funds
- Paying tuition or student fees
- Paying overhead or indirect cost
- Conducting research (work must remain within accepted bounds of Extension)
Federal Level Functions (NIFA’s Role)

• Satisfy Legislative and Executive branches
• Provide fair, effective, and efficient administration of Federal assistance.
• Provide program oversight.
• Communicate program successes and impacts to NIFA, USDA, Congress and stakeholders to justify continued support for the program.
NAP’s Role

- Grantee of the NIFA AgrAbility Program.
- Assists and connects SRAPs.
- Limited, on-demand service in areas without SRAPs.
- Outreach to 1890 LGUs, 1994 LGUs, and farmer veterans.
- NTWs
- Annual program evaluations
SRAPs’ Role

• Inform us if you have a change in or reorganization of project staff, and/or program implementation challenges.
• Attend face-to-face and virtual NTWs.
• Submit client demo data to NAP staff on time.
• Participate in NAP needs assessments and evaluation.
• Participate in NAP-led Quality of Life survey.
• Keep your directors, colleagues, and NIFA informed of any significant recognitions of your project.
• Submit your application for project funding continuation on time.
States with Currently Active AgrAbility Projects

State/Regional AgrAbility Projects

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Illinois*
- Indiana*
- Kansas
- Maine
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- North Carolina*
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin

National AgrAbility Project

Indiana (Purdue University)

www.agrability.org
AgrAbility Projects Directory

Select one of the states below to view the contact information for that state or region:


National AgrAbility Project State and Regional AgrAbility Projects USDA Affiliated Collaborators
REEport

- To determine satisfactory progress of the project.

- Progress Report
  - Annually, for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of funding.

- Final Report
  - At the end of year 4, i.e. final year of funding.
REEport cont.

http://portal.nifa.usda.gov

- REEport Information and Resources: http://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport

- Technical Assistance: reeport@nifa.usda.gov
**How Do We Use Your Reports?**

**National Program Leaders**
- Program Management
- RFA Improvements

**Office of the NIFA Director**
- Presentations/Speeches
- Requests for Additional Funds
- Audits

**PARS**
- Evaluations, Strategic Planning

**Congress**
- Budget Justifications
- Outcomes Reporting
- Fiscal Planning

**Communications**
- NIFA Annual Report
- Marketing and Promotion
- Branding

**Other USDA Offices**
- Process Improvements
- Collaboration and Networking
Contact Information

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