

# Schedule

## Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Pre-Conference Sessions

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

*Senate A & B*

### **Mental Health First Aid**

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. The fee for this session is \$80.

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*Capital Ballroom A*

### **New Staff Training**

#### ***NAP Staff: Purdue, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, APRIL, and Colorado State University***

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 pm - 4:00 pm

*University Rooms A-D*

### **Worksite Assessment, Secondary injury, and AT Selection**

#### ***Bill Field and Steve Swain- NAP***

This preconference professional development session will explore the process of conducting an agricultural worksite assessment, the potential for secondary injuries when using assistive technology on the farm, the selection of AT and modifications, and sources of AT and modifications. The session will cover the contents of the latest draft of the updated Agricultural Worksite Assessment Tool for Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities. The fee for this session is \$25.00



1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Conference Room II*

### **Youth Pre-Conference**

#### ***Sierra Royster- APRIL***

This year at the NTW we are creating a Youth Pre-Conference. We are going to have youth sharing how they are involved in agriculture and speakers that will have interactive discussions.

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

*Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom*

### **Reception and Poster Session**

#### **Posters being presented:**

- **AgrAbility- An Attempt to Help with Alaska's Food Insecurity with Its Residents with Disabilities!** by Art Nash, Deshana York- UAF Cooperative Extension and AK AgrAbility
- **ATV Aware Pilot Project** by Susan Harris Broomfield- UNL Extension and NE AgrAbility
- **Farmers' Perceptions of Wearable and Affordable Flexible Robotics: Assistive Technology Solutions for Mobility Limitations** by Robert Franco and Kim Niewolny-VA Tech and VA AgrAbility, Satyajit Upasani,, Alexander Leonessa, and Divya Srinivasan- VA Tech

- **Work Smarter... Not Harder; Ergonomics for Women in Agriculture Resources through eXtension and AgrAbility** by Karen Funkenbusch- MO AgrAbility and University of Missouri and Linda Fetzer- AgrAbility PA and Penn State University
- **Women in Ag: Safe Animal Handling Resources through eXtension and AgrAbility** by Karen Funkenbusch- MO AgrAbility and University of Missouri and Linda Fetzer- AgrAbility PA and Penn State University
- **Missouri and Pennsylvania AgrAbility Assist Diverse Farm & Ranch Populations to Promote Self-Employment Opportunities in Agriculture** by Karen Funkenbusch- MO AgrAbility and University of Missouri and Linda Fetzer and Abbie Spackman- AgrAbility PA and Penn State University
- **New Mexico AgrAbility Apprenticeship Program** by April Cox- Mandy's Farm and NM AgrAbility
- **Agricultural Producers with Parkinson's Disease: A Disease Registry Approach** by Bethany Lowndes, Aaron Yoder, Danish Bhatti, John Bertoni, and Matthew Rizzo- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **NC Therapeutic Ability Gardens: An Overview of Purpose** by Alexea Davis and Dr. Crystal Kyle- NC AgrAbility at NC A&T State University

## Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Opening Session- Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom**


**Randy Romanski- WI Department of AG Interim Secretary, Karl Martin- Dean of Extension- UW Madison, Brian Luck- WI AgrAbility PI, Bill Field- NAP, JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes**

9:15 am- 10:00 am **Breakout sessions**

*Capital Ballroom A*

**Update on USDA's Support for Veterans**


**Bill Ashton- USDA**

Update the audience on the programs and plans for USDA's support for agricultural careers for Veterans. Allow time for questions and answers. 

*University Rooms A-D*

**Tips for Aging Farmers & Ranchers**

**Richard Brzozowski- University of Maine Cooperative Extension and ME AgrAbility**

You likely know a farmer or rancher over the age of 60. Let's work together in this un-conferencing session to assemble useful tips for aging farmers and ranchers. In addition, participants will share informational resources related to aging. We will focus on farmer health, well-being, and safety. 

*Senate A- B*

**Connecting with Diverse Audiences (an 1890 Perspective)**

**Michelle Eley, PhD- NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension and Beatriz Rodriguez NC AgrAbility and NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension**

This interactive session will give you the opportunity to dig deep into some of the pressing issues you face when providing programming for diverse populations with unique needs. The session will explore the common challenges that staff members face when working with new audiences (e.g., cultural differences, lack of information, misinterpretation of information, lack of trust, etc.), but also highlight possible programming solutions and resources available within their communities for addressing issues related to disability in agriculture. Participants will be exposed to some tools and best practices that will enable them to expand programming and outreach to new audiences with diverse backgrounds without displacing or alienating current audiences.

*Assembly Room*

**Low Cost Farm Assistive Technology**

## **Jeff Kratochwill- Easter Seals Wisconsin and WI AgrAbility**

Technology has become a large part of farms today, whether it is to make a job easier or make a process more efficient. We will be talking about various assistive technologies and ways these technologies can be used on the farm.



10:00 am – 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Breakout sessions**

### *Capital Ballroom A*

#### **Panel Presentation on State/Regional Programs for Farmer Veterans**

Several presenters will give descriptions of their state/regional programs that support agriculture careers for veterans. We will have time for questions after every presentation.



### *University Rooms A-D*

#### **Improving AgrAbility Relationships with Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Paige Tidwell and Mason Dean- University of Georgia and GA AgrAbility, Makenzie McLaurin and Rick Peterson- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and TX AgrAbility, and Paul Jones- Purdue University and NAP**

Multiple SRAPs have reported issues with VR counselors requiring AgrAbility clients to prove that they are able to earn a competitive wage through their enterprises in order to receive VR services. In response, the NAP, along with Paul Leverenz of Wisconsin AgrAbility and consultant Steve Etheridge, are working with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and several state VR agencies to produce a training resource for VR counselors that helped them better understand how they can serve AgrAbility clients. This session will describe the current progress of the AgrAbility/VR working group and solicit feedback from participants.

Texas AgrAbility will present their methods of collaboration with TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Department at the state level, and how their methods of collaboration support Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors understanding of Texas AgrAbility Services. Georgia AgrAbility will also present their efforts to improve VR services for farmers. Through the sharing of recent cases, the audience will learn how Georgia AgrAbility successfully assisted farmers improve access on their farm. The audience will also learn about specific facilitators and challenges in collaborating with VR for each of the farmer cases discussed.

### *Senate A-B*

#### **Worksite Assessment Networking**

**Abbie Spackman- AgrAbility PA**

This unconferencing session is geared for staff members who are actively providing worksite assessments. Meet staff from other SRAPs who are providing assessments, obtain their contact information and swap ideas. Share tips on what tools you carry, safety concerns, and how to address the chief complaint while finding the hidden obstacles. Participate in an "I Spy" activity to sharpen your farm assessment skills. This session should be helpful to those who are newer to providing assessments AND experienced staff. Please bring business cards to swap with fellow participants.

### *Assembly Room*

#### **Communicating with Farmers Under Stress**

**Susan Harris-Broomfield-UNL Extension and NE AgrAbility**

This workshop, created by a team at Michigan State University, addresses how stress manifests itself in our bodies and how signs and symptoms can vary in different people. Techniques are taught for active listening and approaching someone who is experiencing chronic stress. Participants will leave the workshop with more confidence in having necessary awkward conversations, rather than ignoring or avoiding such confrontations.

12:00 pm- 1:30 pm

*Madison/Wisconsin Ballroom*



**Lunch-** There will be a special section for farmers.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Breakout Sessions**

*Capital Ballroom A*

**One Veterans Journey from PTSD to Farmer**



**Sara Creech- Blue Yonder Organic Farm**

Learn how this veteran with PTSD started a farm with no experience or knowledge. Building a farm business requires huge commitment- personally and financially. Everything in life is a give and take- How do we determine where we use our time, money, and passion? What are you willing to sacrifice? Will you put in the necessary blood sweat and tears- do you have the drive?  

*University Rooms A-D*

**3D Printing for Farmers**

**Brie Weisman- Maine AgrAbility**

This session will offer the participant an introduction to 3D printers, from the actual 3D printer and its capabilities to the software available to help aspiring 3D makers. Participants will learn how economical 3D printers are and how free software is readily available on the internet to help with design. Examples of Maine farmers using 3D printers will demonstrate how they incorporate a printer to help them on the farm. Included in the session will be a live demonstration of the 3D printer as well as a demonstration of how to use a scanning device to design objects to print.  

*Senate A-B*

**Project Director (PI) Session**

**Bill Field- NAP**

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

*Assembly Room*

**QPR Gatekeeper Training**

**Dr. John Shutske- UW-Madison and Sue Judd-Suicide Prevention Coalition of Iowa County, Wisconsin**

Key components covered in the training: How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal; How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide; The common causes of suicidal behavior; The warning signs of suicide; and How to get help for someone in crisis.

*Conference Room II*

**Youth for Ag of Tomorrow**

**Sierra Royster- APRIL and NAP**


Join to learn more about how your strengths as a young person can empower you to jump into the agricultural field.

2:40 pm – 3:40 pm – **Breakout Sessions**

*Capital Ballroom A*

## **Helping our Veterans with mTBI: A Model for Successful Transition**


### ***Eugenia Herbst- Shepherd Center SHARE Military Initiative***

This session will provide an overview of the characteristics of mild traumatic brain injury that present with our OEF/OIF veteran population. We will review the impact of these conditions on the mind, body, safety and families of these individuals living with brain injury. We will use a case study to identify strategies and tools to help re-engage in a productive lifestyle within the home and community. 

#### *University Rooms A-D*

### **Considerations for Adding Value to Farm Products**

#### ***Richard Brzozowski- Maine AgrAbility***

Farmers are very effective in growing raw produce including fruits, vegetables, tubers, herbs, grains, meats, eggs, or milk. Is the selling of raw products the best way to generate income for the farmer? Would adding value to raw products through some level of processing be beneficial to the farm business? The purpose of this workshop is to outline the challenges and benefits of adding value to food products so that farmers considering this type of enterprise might make the wisest business decision to fit their situation. 

#### *Senate A-B*

### **Are Clients Slipping Through the Cracks?**

#### ***Ned Stoller- MI AgrAbility***

With 40+ active cases to manage and 100 or more clients served annually by multiple staff from different organizations in different locations, it is very likely that individual clients might be forgotten. Are you stressed out about how to keep track of it all? Who is the highest priority person to follow up with when time is short and to-do lists are long? Come learn together from other AgrAbility staff how to make sure clients are getting timely services, how to keep good case notes, how to work together statewide, and not let the clients get lost in the shuffle..

#### *Assembly Room*


### **Farmer Mental Health Trends, Risk Factors, and Stress Reduction Technique "Mindful Living"**

#### ***Josie Rudolphi- University of Illinois and Suzanna Windon- Penn State University and AgrAbility PA***

This session will provide an overview of farmer mental health, given the current economic and environmental conditions, including the recent trends. Importantly, this session will teach attendees the signs and symptoms of chronic stress, anxiety, and depression to better prepare individuals to intervene. Identify individuals in the agricultural community who can help farmers' in crisis. During this session, participants will learn about the importance of mindfulness practice as a stress-reduction technique. A mindfulness technique practice will be included.

#### **Outside**

### **Outdoor Assistive Technology Show and Tell**

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

**3:40 pm – 4:00 pm Break**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Breakout Sessions**

*Capital Ballroom A*

**Cultural Humility and AgrAbility- A Panel Presentation**


**Esmerelda Mandujano- UC-Davis and CA AgrAbility, Beatriz Rodriguez- NC A&T and NC AgrAbility, Jason Schoch- SD State University and Tatanka Ki Owetu -The Renewal AgrAbility Project, Patricia Hammond- SD State University and Tatanka Ki Owetu -The Renewal AgrAbility Project and Michelle Eley- NC A&T**

An introduction to Cultural Humility and its importance in AgrAbility work will be presented. This will be followed by examples from panelists representing at least three socially disadvantaged/underserved agricultural populations, of situations in which cultural humility, or the lack of it, made the outcomes better or worse. A question and answer time between the audience and panelists will then be used to discover ways in which cultural humility may be applied to situations faced by AgrAbility workers and others.

#### *University Rooms A-D*

##### **Avoiding Uneven Ground**


**Mike Hansen- WI Farmer**

Farmers share a commitment to their land, livestock and families that is really only understood by those who share this lifestyle. Healthcare providers have a commitment to helping patients experience positive outcomes and live their best lives. The above statement defines the uneven ground between farmers and health care providers. Understanding and compromise from both viewpoints may be the key to better outcomes for doctors and farmers. 

#### *Senate A-B*



##### **Legacy Innovation Farming Economics Project**

**John Jamerson- Legacy Farming and Health Group, Chuck Baldwin and Ed Sheldon- NAP and Purdue University, Tameka Peoples- The Peoples Foundation**

The Peoples Foundation, the Legacy Farming and Health Group (LFHG), and the National AgrAbility Project (NAP) have formed a new unique partnership to address challenges faced by socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as veterans involved in production agriculture. These organizations bring a long and diverse history of serving these audiences. Their combined experiences will serve in developing a model, building on existing assets, for effectively promoting and increasing the awareness and utilization of USDA programs and services by socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and farmer veterans. 

#### *Assembly Room*

##### **Indoor AT Show and Tell**

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

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Banquet dinner, Keynote Speaker- Davon Lamar Goodwin, and Auction- Madison/Wisconsin Ballrooms**



## **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 am – 8:45 am Breakout Sessions**

*Capital Ballroom A*

##### **Celebrating Veteran Total Farmer Health**


**Linda Emanuel and Natalie Roy- AgriSafe Network**

Rural veterans love their country, their family and their land. They are the leaders who mobilize when natural disasters impact small towns. They act to help others in need. Join AgriSafe during this participatory session as we explore ways to harness the strength of these natural leaders who return to farming. Together we aim to discover creative solutions that protect the veteran from illness and injury while farming. How does one's service (whether deployed or not) increase their risk while working in agriculture? We know military exposure can impact one's health. When you combine military exposure with farm hazards and financial mental strain of farming what are the health disparities? If you are a veteran or work with veterans, AgriSafe needs your help to construct a Total Farmer Health training uniquely designed for veteran farmers. We believe that veterans can farm strong while farming well.  

#### *University Rooms A-D*

##### **Community of Support for Return to Work Life**

***Wanda Caron and Ketra Crosson- Alpha One and ME AgrAbility***

This presentation focuses on the process from acute life change to a return to employment. 

#### *Senate A-B*

##### **Educate-2-Cultivate: Business Development and Assistive Technology Symposium for Military Veterans in Agriculture**

***Anne Devin- ME AgrAbility***

Learn best practices from Maine AgrAbility's full-day agricultural business development and assistive technology symposium.

#### *Assembly Room*

##### **Mobile Learning Lab - Taking Resources Directly to the Farmer and Beyond**

***Rebecca Brightwell, Kyle Haney and Kristen McHugh- The University of Georgia and GA AgrAbility***

The Georgia AgrAbility project was a recipient of the 2019 University of Georgia Extension Innovation Grant to purchase a mobile learning lab. This lab has enabled the project to expand on farm assessments, bring innovative trainings directly to Vocational Rehabilitation offices around the state and to showcase at outreach events. Come learn more as the Georgia AgrAbility project tells you more about taking direct services and learning on the road.

#### *Conference Room II*

##### **Collaborating with Your Goodwill and Other Non-Profits**

***Jobeth Rath and Tess McKeel- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and NAP***

As funding stays the same and demands on services grow, collaboration is the answer. Join in a discussion about collaborating with your local Goodwill and other Non-Profits in your region. Learn how to key in on matched goals in your missions and work together to make a difference to those you serve. Bring your experiences and ideas to share!


#### **8:55 am - 9:40 am Breakout Sessions**

##### *Capital Ballroom A*

##### **Best Practices when working with Service Connected Disabled Veterans**

***Dr. Crystal Kyle- NC A&T State University and NC AgrAbility***


A number of veterans are entering agriculture and reported huge success in therapeutic properties of agriculture. They are working closer with their civilian counterparts to grow food for our nation and contribute to improving food security across the country. Many of these veterans transition to communities with little to no training and counseling on how to interact with civilians. Furthermore, civilians often have not had specific training on how to

engage and interact with veterans. This presentation will highlight some key characteristics of veterans and then present some helpful tools for those who will be working to assist military veterans in or entering agriculture. The presenter is a combat veteran who now farms, is a mental health researcher, and works with disabled veterans. 

#### *University Rooms A-D*

##### **21 Tools & Strategies to Work Smarter not Harder**

##### ***Kelly Gagnon- AgrAbility of Illinois and Grit HQ***

Do you feel like your spinning your wheels? Are you overworked and underpaid? Are you constantly thinking... There has to be a better way? This session is for all, farmers, practitioners, healthcare professionals and AgrAbility program staff who are interested in approaching work and life with increased efficiency and effectiveness. Walk away with strategies, mindset shifts, and specific digital tools you can use to increase the ROI of your work! 

#### *Senate A-B*


##### **International Panel**

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.

#### *Assembly Room*

##### **Utility Vehicle Selection and Safety**

##### ***Abbie Spackman- AgrAbility PA and Linda Fetzer- Penn State University and AgrAbility PA***

Utility Vehicles (UTVs) can be very beneficial for an AgrAbility client to assist with mobility, transport supplies for a job, etc., while reducing the risk of a secondary injury or exacerbating the client's condition. When working with a client, it is important for them to realize the differences between the different UTVs on the market and help them determine the most appropriate one related to their disability and their worksite. Safety features on the UTVs were designed for a reason but we will discuss how to address this topic with the clients so that they understand the purpose of the safety feature and that it should not be changed. Finally, once you have identified a UTV for a client, we will discuss how to write a justification for it when submitting the recommendation to a funding source. 


9:40 am – 10:10 am **Break**

10:10 am – 10:55 am **Breakout Sessions**

#### *Capital Ballroom A*

##### **Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin**

##### ***Ami Cooper- Easter Seals Wisconsin and AgrAbility of Wisconsin***

Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin was a program started to educate high school students (age 14-21) with disabilities about the vast agricultural career opportunities in Wisconsin. The instructor of the course gets to know each student to learn about their individual career interests. The students have the opportunity to make career connections in their communities as well, including: tours of local agricultural businesses, guest speakers, interviewing skills, and exploring possibilities for trial work experiences or job shadows. This session would go over why we started this program and give an overview of what the students are learning when they take the course. 

#### *University Rooms A-D*

##### **Programmatic Factors That Lead to Changes in Quality of Life and Independent Living and Working Levels with AgrAbility Clients and a 25-Year Overview of AgrAbility Demographics**

***Hamida Jinnah- University of Georgia, Robert J. "Bob" Fetsch- Colorado State University Extension and CO AgrAbility, Paige Tidwell- University of Georgia and GA AgrAbility***



In a qualitative study, farmers and ranchers who showed the greatest or least pre-post changes in Quality of Life (QOL) and Independent Living and Working (ILW) scores across 10 states were contacted for telephone interviews. Grounded theory approach (Glaser and Strauss, 1967) was used for analysis. Key programmatic factors that contribute to significant changes in pre-post scores in QOL and ILW included clients appreciating farm assessments, trusting relationships and material contributions from AgrAbility projects.

#### Senate A-B

##### **Mobile Technology and Diabetes Management**

###### ***Sheila Simmons and Karin Rasmussen- KS AgrAbility***

The U.S. population is experiencing increased rates of diabetes and prediabetes and AgrAbility clients are no different. KS AgrAbility staff collaborated with rural health professionals to develop a series of mobile health workshops on diabetes education and management. Participants achieved behavioral change and improved health using SMART goals, attending face-to-face and virtual sessions, and participating in a peer blog. The workshops resulted in increased awareness of KAP services, referrals to the program, and positive health changes for KAP clients that improved their ability to work safely and independently. Strategies were also adapted to be use the resources at an individual level. Discussion will address other health conditions that can be supported through mobile health technology.

#### Assembly Room

##### **Assistive Technology: Programs and Partners for Making Technology Happen**

###### ***Laura Plummer- WI Department of Health Services and Bethany Baldwin, AR Department of Career Education-Division of Rehabilitation Services***

Assistive technology programs and services are often an untapped resource for ensuring collaborative service delivery. Technology is evolving at a rapid pace, which allows people with disabilities greater access for work, life, and community yet it also means that one person can never know it all! Learning about new devices and the opportunities they present for unique solutions takes time and collaboration. This session will provide an overview of the solutions and programs available to meet the needs when resources are stretched thin. Participants will learn about the Assistive Technology Act and how it can serve as an ideal model for getting assistive technology into the hands of people with disabilities, their families, and service providers.



#### 11:05 am – 11:50 am Breakout Sessions

##### *Capital Ballroom A*


###### **Working with Farm Media to Promote AgrAbility**

Members of the farm media, including staff from *Hoard's Dairyman*, are being invited to provide insights and suggestions for AgrAbility staff members who want to share their stories through agricultural media outlets.

#### University Rooms A-D

##### **Independent Living**



###### ***Ben Hinkel- Access to Independence***

This is a general overview of Independent Living services and where to get them. There will be a focus on mental health smartphone apps. 

#### Senate A-B

##### **Preventing Hand Injuries While Pruning**

###### ***Beatriz Rodriguez- NC AgrAbility and NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension, Ned Stoller, Easter Seals Michigan and MI AgrAbility***

In fruit production, pruning and training trees are essential for successful growing and harvest production. Fruit size, quality and pest management are influenced by these practices. Untrained and unpruned trees become entangled masses of shoots and branches that produce little or no   fruit

and harbor insects and diseases. Pruning and training are activities that involve hand, wrist, and shoulder and require repetitive motions for long periods of time. Therefore, understanding the physical demands of these tasks will provide a better view on how to reduce or minimize the exposure of workers to the risk of repetitive motion injuries. This presentation will provide possible solutions to manage risks by adopting good postures, proper tool selection and use of tools.

#### *Assembly Room*

##### **Table Talk: Assistive Tech for Women in Ag**

***Abbie Spackman and Linda Fetzer- Penn State University and AgrAbility PA and Karen Funkenbusch- University of Missouri and MO AgrAbility***

The number of women involved in production agriculture continues to expand, whether they are traditional farmers, new and beginning farmers, or veteran farmers. Most people are aware that manufacturers design and build equipment, tools, and vehicles based on the average male's height, weight, grip strength, etc. Most females do not fit the average male mold and use tools and equipment that are not designed for them. How does this impact our role in AgrAbility when recommending assistive technology for our female clients? Join the conversation to discuss this topic.



12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch, Silent Auction ends- Madison/Wisconsin Ballrooms**

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Breakout Sessions**

#### *Capital Ballroom A*

##### **Asking the Right Questions and Finding the Right Resources for Rural Caregivers**

***Laura Akgerman, Dee Jepsen, and Lisa Pfeifer- OH AgrAbility***

At NTW 2019 Ohio AgrAbility led an Unconferencing session and generated discussion around the needs of caregivers, family members, clients and rural community services. OAP staff compiled the information gathered in that session and used community mapping strategies to develop a checklist of resources that conference attendees can use in their own geographic area. OAP staff will share this checklist, as well as a template for planning a caregiver workshop in their state or community, with evaluation tools.

#### *University Rooms A-D*

##### **Opportunities and Challenges of Alternative or Value-Added Agricultural Enterprises**

***Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin- NAP and Purdue University, John Jamerson- Legacy Farming and Health Group, and Tameka Peoples- The Peoples Foundation***

The session will feature a panel discussion featuring AgrAbility clients who are currently engaged (or have been) in alternative or value-added agricultural enterprises. The program will highlight the opportunities, as well as potential challenges, that may be experienced by farmers and ranchers who are seeking to diversify their income stream by establishing alternative enterprises.



#### *Senate A-B*

##### **What Isn't Currently Attainable Through AgrAbility?**

***Bethany Lowndes- University of Nebraska Medical Center, Aaron Yoder- University of Nebraska Medical Center and NE AgrAbility, Rod Peterson and Emily Freudenburg- Easterseals NE and NE AgrAbility***



*This session will include a pilot needs assessment of individuals that don't yet qualify for VR but could benefit from similar services to prevent injury or slow decline. This session will be conducted in two parts. The first part will focus on an overview of 1) The prevalence of chronic diseases amongst agricultural producers as well as the impact of these diseases and 2) Age-related performance decline or increased safety risk despite disease or disability. In the interactive portion of the session, attendees will be invited to discuss their observation and perspective of 1. Who is AgrAbility missing? 2. What services do AgrAbility clients need but cannot access (i.e. PT/OT)? 3. How can we assist*

clients in rural areas with access to health care services when tele-health isn't an option? 4. What are occupational needs of producers with chronic diseases that may need preventative care (no current disability)?

#### Assembly Room

##### **Low-Tech Assistive Technology at Home and Abroad**

###### ***Ned Stoller- MI AgrAbility and Andrea Garza- Easterseals MI***



Low-tech assistive technology is readily available, requires little training to use, and has minimal cost to construct. Complex assistive technology has been developed for almost every task in our high-tech world of electronics and computer aided design, but is often inaccessible because of high cost   and fragile parts or scarce materials. Low-tech assistive technology enables people with disabilities to move about, grip tools, and decrease back pain. This technology can be constructed from local materials world-wide by resident craftsmen. Farm workers in developing countries can use this low-tech AT to produce food for themselves and their families.

#### 2:40 pm – 3:40 pm Breakout Sessions

#### Capital Ballroom A

##### **Safe Livestock Handling and Labor-Saving Devices**


###### ***Nashon Bisho- Lincoln University Extension and University of Missouri Extension, David Middleton and Susan Jaster- Lincoln University Extension, and Karen Funkenbusch- University of Missouri Extension***

Best Livestock handling practices are key to avoiding primary and secondary injury to farmers as well as livestock. This presentation will focus on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to fit your livestock operation. Additionally, new laborsaving technology will be highlighted and discussed with the purpose of minimizing stress for both livestock and farmer.  

#### University Rooms A-D

##### **How to DIY Your Small Farm Marketing in the Digital Age**

###### ***Kelly Gagnon- AgrAbility of IL & Grit HQ***

There is a difference between marketing and doing it the right way. Grit HQ will present best practices for small farm and specialty grower marketing - focusing on messaging and branding, website and social media content, and DIY video and photography. Attendees will leave with a list of resources to use and a clear plan of attack on how they can market their own farms and produce more efficiently and effectively to their target consumer using free and low-cost resources. 

#### Senate A-B

##### **Enhancing AgrAbility Services Through Preparing Successful Requests for Funding**

###### ***Bill Field, Ed.D.- NAP and Purdue University***

AgrAbility funding from USDA/NIFA has remained basically the same for the last 25 years. If AgrAbility programs are to enhance or expand services, external support will be needed. Building relationships with potential supporters and encouraging them to buy in are skills needed by all AgrAbility staff.

#### Assembly Room

##### **Considerations in Choosing the Right After-Market Tractor Seat Cushion**

###### ***Carla Wilhite- NM AgrAbility Project***

AgrAbility professionals are asked to provide advice when selecting after-market cushions for additional support, comfort, and skin protection on the tractor seat. The needs of different users in selecting the best cushion for their situation is made difficult, since there is very little research on the subject. This session will help AgrAbility



professionals determine situations where general cushions may suffice, and where they may want to seek consultation with seating specialists.

3:40 pm – 4:10 pm **Break**

4:10 pm – 4:55 pm **Breakout Sessions**



*Capital Ballroom A*

**Adaptive Farming with the New Mexico AgrAbility Apprenticeship Program**

***April Cox- Mandy's Farm and NM AgrAbility and Carla Wilhite- NM AgrAbility Project***

The NM AgrAbility Project was developed as a partnership between the University of New Mexico's Occupational Therapy Program, New Mexico Technology Assistance Program, New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Office, and Mandy's Farm: a local non-profit providing community-based programming to over 200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mandy's Farm is a fully operational farm located in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Through the AgrAbility apprenticeship program, individuals with significant disabilities who have an interest in owning a small scale farming business can learn how to farm and develop an individualized micro-business plan. The presentation will discuss the lessons learned and barriers to success that we have experienced as we have worked alongside our first year apprentices. The presentation will also cover adapted methods of farming that were used to help them be successful while farming. We will talk about community connections and the important role they play in helping our young farmers be successful.



*University A-D*

**How Do You Know What You Don't Know?**

***Lani Carlson- ME AgrAbility***

Maine AgrAbility uses a library of Farmer Skill & Knowledge Checklists developed by UMaine Cooperative Extension. These checklists are meant to be a guide of useful skills and knowledge for a variety of farm enterprises. These checklists could help prioritize learning objectives for clients, gain knowledge and skills to improve the likelihood of having a more profitable business or find gainful employment. How can SRAPs use these checklists? How can clients to use these checklists? Are there other publications available to increase our AgrAbility skill set?

*Senate A-B*

**Sustainability for AgrAbility Programs**

***Jobeth Rath and Tess McKeel- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and NAP***

The demands for services from our current projects is growing, while funding remains the same. We see only 20 states being served, while we know that many more need the services. This un-conferencing session is designed to explore and share ideas for: fundraising; looking at grant opportunities; maintaining and expanding government funding and more! Bring your ideas, and soak up other's during this session formatted for sharing.

*Assembly Room*

**Enhancing Participation through Outreach and Technical Assistance for USDA Programs in Wisconsin**

***Cally Ehle- Easterseals WI***

This presentation will provide information about a new SDA Outreach Grant that was awarded to Easter Seals Wisconsin/AgrAbility Wisconsin. It will include information including the objectives, goals and strategies of increasing awareness of USDA programs to SDA/veteran farmers and ranchers.

**Dinner on your own**

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Tours**

**Tour 1 (Full Day Tour)**

**8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Dairy Focused:** This tour will travel to the Dairy Forage Center on UW Madison Campus, a large dairy and cheese making operation, and a creamery for lunch \$50 Fee

**Tour 2 (Full Day Tour)**

**8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**AgrAbility Farmer and Agricultural Research:** This tour will travel to a couple of AgrAbility client farms (a crop farmer and a greenhouse operation), a distillery for lunch and the UW Arlington Research Station. \$50 Fee

**Tour 3 (Full Day Tour with ½ day drop off)**

**8:00 am - 3:30 pm with hotel drop off around noon**

**UW Madison Agricultural stops and Kuhn Agricultural Machinery:** This tour will travel to a couple Agricultural places on UW Madison Campus, have lunch at Babcock Hall, drop off at the Hotel around noon and then travel to the Kuhn manufacturing plant. \$50 Fee for full day and \$25 fee for half day

**Special Interest Key**



**Farmers/Ranchers**



**Veterans**



**Assistive Technology**