

AgrAbility NTW Virtual Session Descriptions

Date of Presentation	Presenter(s) Name	Institutional/programmatic affiliation of submitting presenter(s):	Session Title	Description of session
2/2/2021	Ryan Rausch Kara Beech	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources Wyoming Center on Aging	Teaching Older Adults Technology during COVID: Wyoming's Tech2Connect Project	Social distancing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has made training difficult for most service organizations. Compound the social distancing protocols with a client who has little to no experience with technology and training seems near impossible. Wyoming's Tech2Connect Project will discuss strategies for teaching older adults how to use technology in these unprecedented times. Wyoming's Tech2Connect Project will share from its experience working with Wyoming Senior Centers to teach older adults how to use technology to decrease social isolation and connect to virtual resources.
2/9/2021	Abbie Spackman	AgrAbility PA	Worksite Assessment Networking	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.
2/16/2021	Kelly Gagnon	AgrAbility of Illinois & Grit HQ	21 Tools & Strategies to Work Smarter not Harder	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!
2/23/2021	Bill Field, Ed.D.	National AgrAbility Project, Purdue University	Enhancing AgrAbility Services Through Preparing Successful Requests for Funding	AgrAbility funding from USDA/NIFA has remained the same for basically 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.
3/2/2021	Laura Plummer	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	Assistive Technology: Programs and Partners for Making Technology Happen	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. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to learn about and use various types of assistive technology. Case examples and discussion will enhance the lecture and demonstration formats of this session.
3/9/2021	Ned Stoller	Easter Seals Michigan- Michigan AgrAbility	Are Clients Slipping Through the Cracks?	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.

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3/16/2021	Susan Harris Glennis McClure	UNL Extension and Nebraska AgrAbility University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Communicating with Farmers Under Stress	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.
3/23/2021	Jeff Kratochwill	Easter Seals Wisconsin	Low Cost Farm Assistive Technology	Technology has become a large part of farms today, whether it is to make a job easier or make a process more efficient. Presenter will be talking about various assistive technologies and ways these technologies can be used on the farm.
3/30/2021	Dr. Crystal Kyle	Biological Science Specialist Institute of Youth, Family, and Community USDA	Best Practices when working with Service Connected Disabled Veterans	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.
4/6/21	Paul Jones Pam Jahnke Sarah Hetke	Purdue University/NAP Mid-West Farm Report Wisconsin Farm Bureau	Working with Farm Media to Promote AgrAbility	Join Sarah Hetke from WI Farm Bureau and Pam Jahnke from Mid-West Farm Report as they provide insights and suggestions for AgrAbility staff members who want to share their stories through agricultural media outlets.
4/13/21	Richard Brzozowski	University of Maine Cooperative Extension	Tips for Aging Farmers & Ranchers	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'll focus on farmer health, well-being, and safety.
4/20/21	Susan Jaster and David Middleton Karen Funkenbusch Kendra Graham	Lincoln University Coop. Extension University of Missouri Extension and MO AgrAbility University of Missouri Extension	Safe Livestock Handling and Labor-Saving Devices	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 labor-saving technology will be highlighted and discussed with the purpose of minimizing stress for both livestock and farmer.
4/27/21	Abbie Spackman and Linda Fetzer Karen Funkenbusch	Penn State University- AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians University of Missouri- MO AgrAbility	Table Talk: Assistive Tech for Women in Ag	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. Learn about 1) resources for women in agriculture available through the Ag Safety and Health eXtension Community of Practice and Women in Ag Learning Network; 2) discuss considerations and adjustments required when recommending assistive technology for women, and 3) discuss any assistive technology that is women friendly.

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5/4/21	Carla Wilhite	New Mexico AgrAbility Project	Considerations in Choosing the Right After-Market Tractor Seat Cushion	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.
5/11/21	Ned Stoller Andrea Garza	Easter Seals Michigan, MI AgrAbility Easter Seals Michigan	Low-Tech Assistive Technology at Home and Abroad	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.
5/18/2021	Josie Rudolphi Suzanna Windon	University of Illinois Penn State University and AgrAbility PA	Farmer Mental Health Trends, Risk Factors, and Stress Reduction Technique "Mindful Living"	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.
5/25/21	Laura Akgerman, Dee Jepsen, and Lisa Pfeifer	Ohio AgrAbility	Asking the Right Questions and Finding the Right Resources for Rural Caregivers	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.
6/1/2021	Paul Jones Mason Dean Makenzie Thomas and Cheryl Grenwelge Paul Leverenz	NAP and Purdue University University of Georgia and GA AgrAbility Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and TX AgrAbility EasterSeals Wisconsin	Improving AgrAbility Relationships with Vocational Rehabilitation	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, an AgrAbility/VR working group has been meeting to produce a training resource for VR counselors to help them better understand how they can serve AgrAbility clients. This session will describe the current progress of the 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.

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6/8/2021	Chuck Baldwin Ed Sheldon John Jamerson Tameka Peoples	NAP/ Purdue University NAP/ Purdue University Legacy Farming and Health Group The Peoples Foundation	Legacy Innovation Farming Economics Project (LIFE)	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.
6/15/2021	Hamida Jinnah Bob Fetsch	University of Georgia CSU Extension AgrAbility Project	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>Results from quantitative analyses of the National AgrAbility Project's first 25 years of demographic data showed that 8-25 State or Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs) served an average of approximately 490 new individuals annually for a total of 11,754 unique clients served between 1991 and 2016. Typically, AgrAbility served clients for one to 74 months (M = 14.85 months) (Fetsch & Turk, 2018). This meant that it was possible to count some clients up to seven times (Fetsch, Petrea, Jones, Field, & Aherin, 2019). We recommend future researchers focus on the estimated average number of approximately 490 new clients served annually between 1991 and 2016.</p>
6/22/2021	Bethany Lowndes Aaron Yoder Rod Peterson Emily Freudenberg	University of Nebraska Medical Center University Of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska AgrAbility Easter Seals Nebraska/Nebraska AgrAbility Easter Seals Nebraska/Nebraska AgrAbility	What isn't currently attainable through AgrAbility?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the interactive portion of the session, attendees will be invited to discuss their observation and perspective of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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)?
6/29/2021	Chuck Baldwin Ed Sheldon John Jamerson Tameka Peoples	NAP/ Purdue University NAP/ Purdue University Legacy Farming and Health Group The Peoples Foundation	Opportunities and Challenges of Alternative or Value-Added Agricultural Enterprises	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.

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7/6/2021	April Cox	Mandy's Farm	Adaptive Farming with the New Mexico AgrAbility Apprenticeship Program	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.
7/13/2021 0:00	Wanda Caron, COTA/L, Ketra S. Crosson, OTR/L	Maine AgrAbility - Alpha One	Community of Support for Return to Work Life	This presentation focuses on the process from acute life change to a return to employment.
7/20/2021	Lani Carlson	Maine AgrAbility	How Do You Know What You Don't Know?	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?
7/27/2021	Sarah Creech	Blue Yonder Organic Farm	One Veterans Journey from PTSD to Farmer	Learn how this veteran with PTSD started a farm with no experience or knowledge. Building a farm businesses require 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?