* **Washington State AgrAbility: Building a New Extension Program During Covid-19** *by Don McMoran and Kristen VanValkenburg, WSU Skagit County Extension*

Affiliated with the National AgrAbility Project, the USDA-funded Washington State AgrAbility Project (WSAP) based at Washington State University Skagit County Extension serves farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers throughout the state inhibited by injury, illness, or disability. The program helps ease the return to work and daily living activities and reduce the rate of secondary injury. In early 2020, WSAP was developing assistive technology lending library kits and home/worksite assessment protocols while delivering trainings and demonstrations in person. At these events, WSAP was presented alongside the topics of farm stress, agricultural behavioral health and suicide prevention. With the emergence of COVID-19, in-person outreach was severely limited. Initially, we intended to embed coexisting farm stress and behavioral health programming into WSAP outreach. However, with an elevated focus on behavioral health and excessive stress brought on by the pandemic, farmers and stakeholders were eager for behavioral health messaging which opened the door for WSAP to present to more audiences. For example, WSU Skagit County Extension was invited to share behavioral health information at Washington Farm Bureau PPE giveaways which provided opportunity to promote WSAP as well. At these events WSAP distributed bilingual Spanish-English information on the program and approximately 500 First-Aid kits including suicide prevention wallet cards to farmers and farmworkers from multiple counties. WSAP also gave presentations to County Farm Bureaus in WA Farm Bureau’s Safety & Claims division, reaching over 140 individuals. Additionally, WSAP partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and non-profit Growing Veterans, delivering webinars and an in-person outdoor presentation following social distancing guidelines, including an assistive technology demonstration. Given the difficulty of developing an outreach-based program under the circumstances of COVID-19, WSAP’s resiliency relied on a diversified and well-connected Extension system and seizing relevant opportunities to collaborate. We anticipate that WSAP will continue to be resilient and utilize its position and knowledge of holistic agricultural health to further the WSU Extension mission of “engaging people, organizations, and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being, and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.”[1]

* **Save Your Brain: Preventing Brain Injury through 4-H and AgrAbility Collaboration** *by Emily Doosing,* *University of Missouri Extension/BIA-MO, Karen Funkenbusch and Lupita Fabregas- University of Missouri Extension, and Maureen Cunningham- Brain Injury Association of Missouri*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, traumatic brain injury (TBI) causes 153 deaths every day in the United States. Additionally, those who survive traumatic brain injury face symptoms that could last the rest of their lives. Young people are especially vulnerable to traumatic brain injury. Understanding the causes of traumatic brain injury, the effects, and learning how to interact with TBI survivors is imperative to preventing TBI and ensuring inclusivity. The 4-H Save Your Brain Curriculum was developed as a partnership between Missouri 4-H, Missouri AgrAbility, and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri in order to address the head injury health crisis.

* **Experiences of Farmers with Spinal Cord Injuries** *by Lauren Rainone, NC AgrAbility and MGH Institute of Health Professions*

This poster presentation will highlight the impact of SCI in the role of farmers including their work on the farm and daily living tasks. It will provide an overview of the modifications and technologies used by the farmers and their benefits and limitations. It will also help to understand the effects of wheelchair seating cushions utilized by farmers with SCI.

* **Expanding Networking and Outreach through Social Media** *by Evan Hairston, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University – NC AgrAbility*

NC AgrAbility Partnership, as a nonprofit organization, is seeking to increase the number of farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers participating in the various services the program provides. However, due to the pandemic and other factors, it has been challenging to reach the diverse commodity groups, minority groups, and other rural communities where the program wants to increase awareness of their available resources. By increasing social media visibility, the program aims to breach the gap in the outreach efforts.

* **Farmers’ Stress and Career Commitment** *by Carolyn Henzi and Dr. Suzanna Windon, The Pennsylvania State University*

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the agricultural sector, adding more stress to farmers' lives (Johansson, 2021). Farmers are experiencing higher levels of psychological distress, depression, and anxiety (Rudolphi et al., 2020; Yazd et al., 2019), which has consequences both for the person itself and for agriculture, increasing the chances of having occupational accidents, farming withdrawal, and in more severe cases, farmer's suicide. We hypothesized that a high level of farmers’ stress may

negatively affect farmers' commitment to career in agriculture. This quantitative study utilized an online survey method to collect data during Spring 2021 from [State] farmers. We collected data using the Qualtrics platform. We sent online survey to approximately 3000 [State] farm operators registered on the [State] Extension database. Approximately, 10% response rate was obtained from the study (n= 332). However, after applying inclusion and exclusion criteria and removing missing cases, a sample of 186 was used in this study. This pilot study described [State] farmers' occupational stress (on-farm and off-farm), personal stress, and farmers’ career commitment (CC) during pandemic times. Farmers reported that the personal factor brought less stress. The off-farm stress factor affected farmers most during the pandemic. Farmers’ commitment to agricultural career was relatively high during the COVID-19. We found significant low positive correlation between [State] farmers’ career commitment and on-farm stress (p = .151\*). The results from this research cannot be generalized to another population because it was a pilot study that used a convenient sampling approach***.***

* **Legacy Innovation Farming Economics Project (LIFE)***by John Jamerson- Legacy Farming and Health Group, Chuck Baldwin and Ed Sheldon- Purdue University/National AgrAbility Project, and 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.

* **Indiana AgVets Certification and Internship Program** *by Linda Tarr- Hoosier Uplands/Indiana AgrAbility and Ed Sheldon- Purdue University/National AgrAbility Project*

The Indiana AgVets Certification and Internship Program is an agricultural career training opportunity specifically for U.S. military veterans in Indiana or surrounding states. The program prepares participants for rewarding careers in production agriculture or agribusiness by providing specialized training (free of charge) tailored to the veteran’s personal interests and career aspirations, and paid internships in a farm or agricultural service business.

Indiana AgVets is a project of Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation, in cooperation with the AgrAbility Project at Purdue University. The program is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Grant Number 2019-77028-29971.

* **Food Safety Education for Military Veteran Farmers: A Pilot Study** *by Yaohua Feng and Han Chen- Purdue University*

With the increasing food safety regulations, small-scale farmers are facing more challenges to make profits from producing agriculture commodities. Veteran farmers who are commonly farming small-scale are rarely targeted by previous food safety programs to evaluate the effectiveness of food safety educational interventions. In 2019, three educational interventions were pilot-tested among Indiana military veteran farmers, including learning circles, in-person workshops, and electronic newsletters. Thirty-four veteran farmers participated in the evaluation of these interventions, including 16 in-person workshop participants, 9 learning circle participants, and 9 electronic newsletter participants. This poster will present the findings from the intervention evaluation and will present the recommendations for the development of food safety educational interventions for military veteran farmers.

* **Cultivating Missouri AgrAbility’s Social Media Strategy** *by Tevin Uthlaut and Karen Funkenbusch- University of Missouri Extension*

Missouri AgrAbility expanded media efforts to include social media. Each month, Missouri AgrAbility staff meet to discuss trends, upcoming events and monthly messages related to health, safety and wellness in production agriculture. Through identifying trends and events Missouri AgrAbility develops a social media plan and creates content across social media platforms to increase awareness of AgrAbility, educate farmers and ranchers, share education opportunities and build an online community. A well-planned social media strategy can connect farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers, beginning farmers and veteran farmers with chronic diseases, illnesses or disabilities to programs, resources and organizations to help them continue within their chosen agricultural profession(s).