



# *AgrAbility 101 – An introduction to the Who, What, When, Why and Where of AgrAbility*

*JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel -National AgrAbility Project Partners,  
Goodwill of the Finger Lakes*



AgrAbility is a program sponsored by USDA-NIFA that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers and their family members impacted by disability, injury or chronic conditions.

*Program funding began with the 1991 Farm Bill, with 8 states funded.*



**Grant funding is currently provided by USDA-NIFA for:**

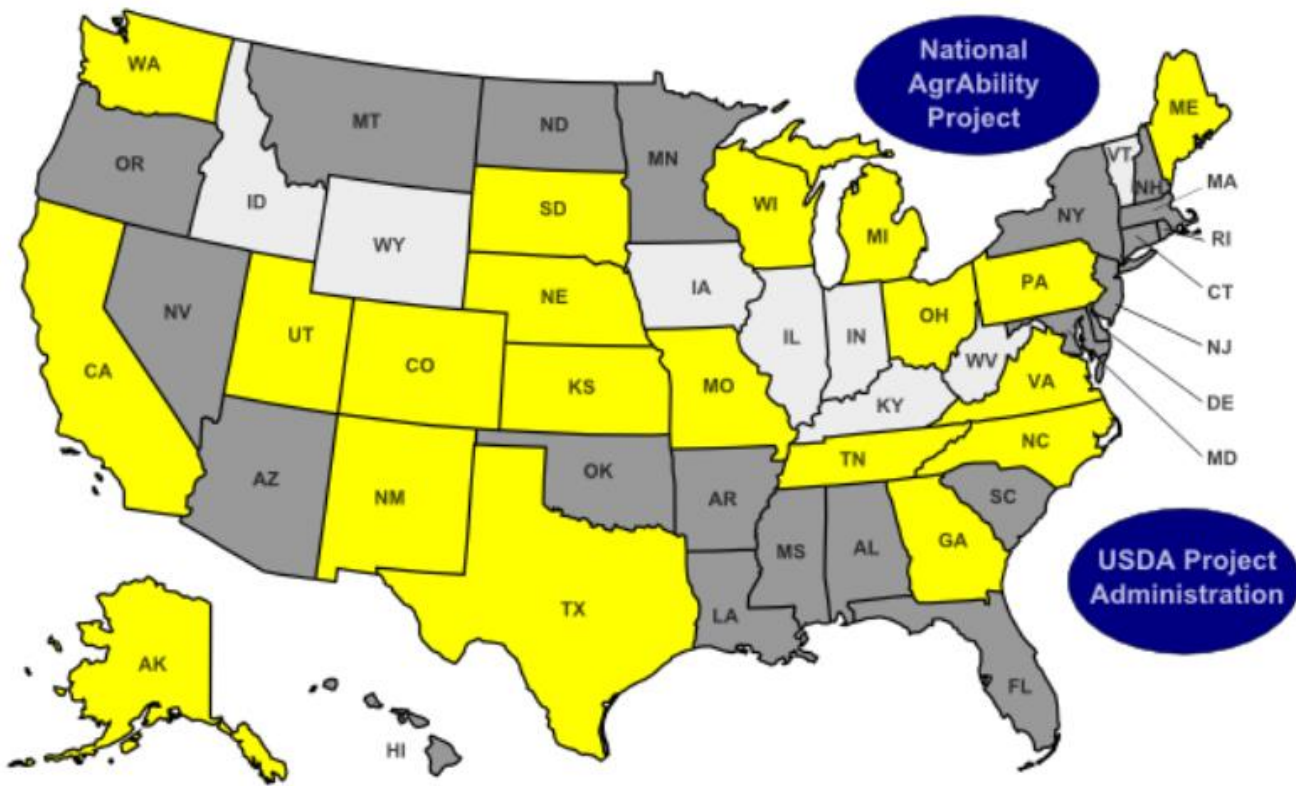
**One National AgrAbility Project (NAP)  
(four year cycle)**

**20 State / Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs)  
(three year cycle)**



# AgrAbility

Cultivating Accessible Agriculture



Key	■ National Project/Federal Gov	■ State/Regional Project	■ Affiliate Project	■ No Project
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## **Who is involved in an AgrAbility Project?**

Grant funding is available to Land Grant University Cooperative Extension Services who must partner with at least one non-profit disability organization.

### **National AgrAbility Project :**

**Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University**  
**Goodwill of the Finger Lakes**  
**OsteoArthritis Action Alliance**  
**Colorado State University**  
**Washington State University**



The vision of AgrAbility is to enable a high quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. Through education and assistance, AgrAbility helps to eliminate (or at least minimize) obstacles that block success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.



AgrAbility serves individuals in production agriculture who are limited by any type of physical, cognitive or illness-related Impairment.

*amputation | arthritis | back impairment | hearing impairment | developmental disability | mental health concerns | respiratory disease | spinal cord injury | stroke | traumatic brain injury | visual impairment*



Just as disability is wide continuum, agriculture is also:

- *Row crops: corn, soy, wheat, cotton, etc.*
- *Ranching*
- *Sheep and goats*
- *Dairy*
- *Produce, including organic*
- *Orchards*
- *Agritourism*
- *Niche markets, like llamas, herbs, etc.*
- *Floriculture*
- *Aquaculture*
- *Hydroponics*
- *Aquaponics*

Just to name a few





AgrAbility Services are Consumer-Centered and may include the following:

- *On site assessments to identify barriers*
- *Recommendation of appropriate assistive technologies; adaptive tools; modified work practices; modifications*
- *Access to informational materials*
- *Educational and training opportunities through conferences, workshops and online programs*
- *Referral to appropriate service providers*
- *Peer support opportunities*



## Special Responsibilities of the NAP

- Provide support to the state and regional AgrAbility Projects
  - Training
  - Resources
  - Consultations with NAP specialists
- Provide limited direct services to customers in states without AgrAbility projects



AgrAbility *does not* provide direct funding or equipment, however, will work to connect clients with the appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and other funding sources.





## What if your state does not have an AgrAbility Project?

- You can still get technical support from the National AgrAbility Project
- Resources available at [www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)
- Encourage your state's land-grant university(s) to apply for an AgrAbility grant
- State VR Agency
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Centers for Independent Living
- State AT Act Projects
- Cooperative Extension
- USDA- FSA, NRCS



## Key NAP Personnel



- **Bill Field, Project Director**
  - Founder of Breaking New Ground
  - Overall project oversight
  - Liaison with USDA



- **Paul Jones, Project Manager**
  - Management of daily activities
  - Resource development



## Key NAP Personnel



- **Steve Swain, Assistive Technology Specialist**
  - Toolbox process
  - Liaison with RESNA



- **Chuck Baldwin, Special Populations Outreach Coordinator & Demographic Data Specialist**
  - Networking with 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions, Latino farmworker organizations, others
  - Coordinates demographic data collection process

## Key NAP Personnel



- **Cindy Chastain, Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
  - Outreach to veterans with disabilities interested in agriculture and organizations that serve them



**For more information including online training, recorded webinars and the AT Toolbox:**

***[www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)***







**Questions?**