



# Washington State AgrAbility: Building a New Extension Program During Covid-19

March 2022

# March 2015



Jack Brummel  
Northwest Access Fund



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# What's Your Why?



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# What's Your Why?



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Sept 2019

# Washington AgrAbility

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Practical solutions for farmers and farm workers  
experiencing difficulty working due to physical or  
mental health barriers



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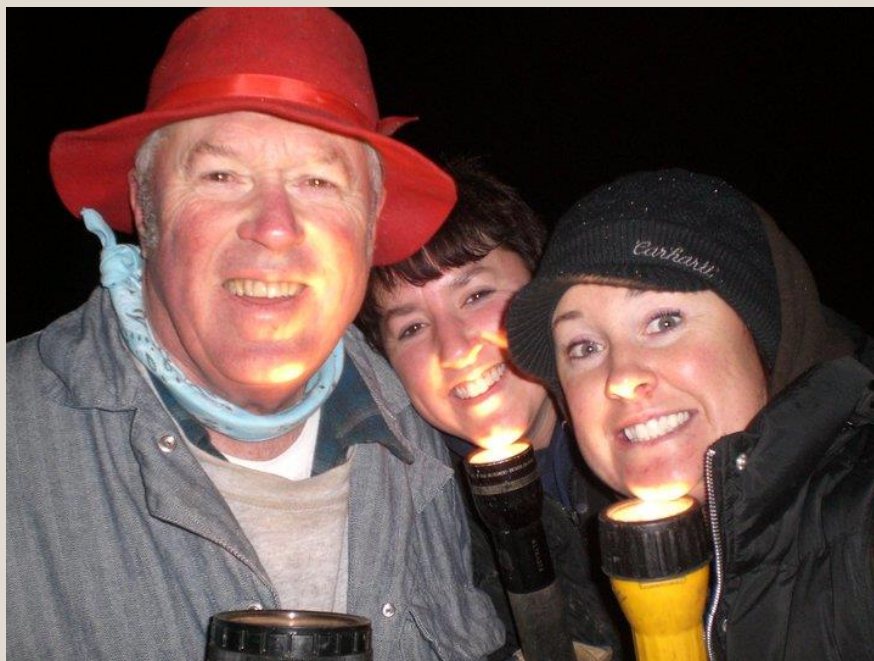
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# March 2021



Kristen VanValkenburg  
AgrAbility Coordinator



## My Why



# Background

## Hired in February

- First and last in-person workshop March 6, 2020

## Covid in March

- Two-week statewide shutdown followed by the WSU extension not being open to the public until July 2021



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# Washington State AgrAbility Program

## Total Shift from April 2020 – Current

- **Partnerships**
- **Outreach/Marketing**
- **Direct Assistance**
- **Spanish Translation**



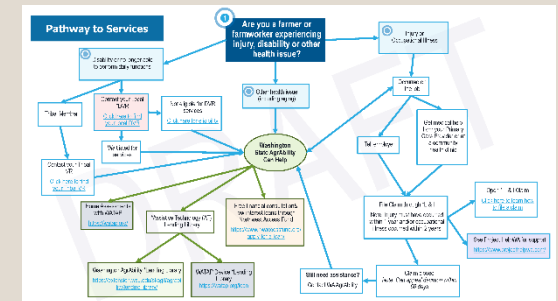
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# Partnerships

- Washington Farm Bureau both state, county and RETRO safety
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Veteran Farms (8 total in Washington)
- Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Commodity Groups
- Developed a Pathway to Services for assistance in WA



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# Outreach/Marketing

## Workshops -

- April 2020-October 2021- 27 virtual workshops/presentations reaching 628 people
  - Simple Tools and Modifications for Farmers and Gardeners
  - Assistive Technology for Working Farmers
  - Aching Hands and Stomped-on Feet
  - Preventing Injury

FINALLY back in person November 12, 2021 at some venues and trade shows began happening



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# Outreach/Marketing

## Media -

- Podcasts
- Radio interviews
- Written articles
- Website – 1565 page views
- Facebook – 123 posts with 768 post clicks, likes & shares



### WSU: Agrability Works To Keep Farmers Farming

Farming is a demanding job, physically, emotionally, and in a variety of other ways. But what happens if something changes make it harder to farm



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# Outreach/Marketing

## Marketing -

- Developed a logo
- Made a promotional video (**viewed 117 times**)
- Ordered 1000 logo'd masks and inserts to distribute
- Dispersed AgrAbility materials in DOH kits each county extension received a box of materials (**39 counties**)



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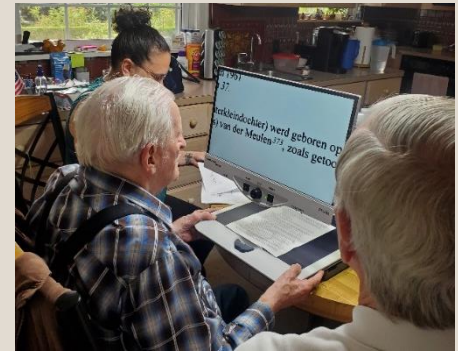
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# Direct Assistance

## Lending library

- Developed an AT Lending Library for distribution throughout the state:  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/agrability/lending-library/>
- AT is tailored to particular types of injuries/ailments i.e. hearing and vision loss, lower back pain, arthritis and grip issues, etc.



## Client interaction/assessment



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# Spanish Translation

Spanish promotional video  
Promotional material  
Website



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# What the future hold?



- Difficulties
- Challenges
- Successes

# Questions?



## **Don McMoran**

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