* **Evaluation of Food Safety Education among Veteran Farmers***by Autumn Stoll and Dr. Betty Feng- Purdue University-* The effectiveness of food safety educational interventions is rarely evaluated with small-scale veteran farmers as the subjects. Therefore, leaving a gap in understanding what veteran farmers' educational needs and preferences are. In 2019, three educational interventions were pilot-tested among Indiana military veteran farmers, including learning circles, in-person workshops, and electronic newsletters. The interventions were expanded on a multi-state level in 2022 and a series of webinars was launched. This poster will present the findings from the intervention evaluation and will present the recommendations for the development of food safety education interventions for military veteran farmers.
* **Washington State AgrAbility Project: Rebuilding an Extension Program** *by Don McMoran, Alyssa Wade, Emily Whittier, Deb Eidsness and Debbie Fredricks- Washington State University, Washington State AgrAbility Program-* Affiliated with the National AgrAbility Project, the USDA-funded Washington State AgrAbility Project (WSAP) has served farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers throughout the state inhibited by injury, illness, or disability since 2019. The program helps ease the return to work and daily living activities and reduce the rate of secondary injury. Educating and getting sign ups for the program during a pandemic proved difficult, requiring the switch from in person to mostly online outreach. In early 2020 WSAP was developing assistive technology (AT) lending library kits while delivering in-person trainings and demonstrations. 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 then opened the door for WSAP to present to more audiences. The task at hand sent several WSAP staff searching for new careers (Farming, Ag Education, Marketing and Electric bus sales) and allowed an opportunity to redesign how the WSAP program would be ran in the final year (4) of the grant. Given the immense geographic area of Washington State it was determined that additional employees would be required to complete the outreach activities. A total of 4 full and part time employees were hired, training occurred online and in person at the University of Washington in Seattle with Co-PI's Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP) and Northwest Access Fund on September 12th, 2022. Since that time there have been outreach performed at multiple workshops and conferences. A total of three home assessments have been performed. eNote write ups deadlines were met and weekly team meetings completed. The team is well on its way of accomplishing deliverables laid out in the original grant application and is excited for the future outreach events.
* **The Impact of Stressors on Guam’s Farming Community** *by Grace Anne Dela Cruz, Elvira Gisog and Kuan-Ju Chen- University of Guam-* The poster highlights the Producer Stress Survey conducted with regional agricultural producers in the Western Pacific Island states of Guam, Northern Marianas (NMI), and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The poster includes a brief abstract about the study effort with the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP), following a short background introduction on how the initiative began and the increasing mental health concern in the agriculture sector, the methodology followed, some takeaway messages from our survey results, a discussion of the results and recent efforts, the future direction of the study, references, and acknowledgments.
* **Advocating for a More Inclusive, Accessible Future in Agriculture** *by Dr. Ivette Ruiz- Healing By Growing Farms-* How can farm work be used to heal and support us through trauma and aging? Join Healing By Growing (HBG) Farms in building a more inclusive, accessible and resilient future accepting of all abilities as Dr. Ivette Ruiz shares her research survey findings of over (100) farmers in the Northeast.
* **Legacy Innovation Farming Economics Project (LIFE)** *by Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin- NAP/Purdue University, Tameka Peoples- Peoples Foundation and John Jamerson- Legacy Farming and Health Group-* In 2019, the National AgrAbility Project joined the Peoples Foundation and the Legacy Farming and Health Group to form the Legacy Innovation Farming Economics (LIFE) Project. This project, supported by the USDA 2501 grant program, has been successful in promoting the utilization of USDA services (including AgrAbility) among socially disadvantaged population and military veterans involved in agriculture throughout the country. In 2022, the LIFE Project’s success in distributing technical support and educational resources to aspiring agriculturalists was recognized by the team receiving a second three-year grant to continue the effort. This poster presentation will highlight the LIFE Project’s successes in reaching underserved audiences, and preview the team’s plan for the next three years.
* **Managing Stress on the Farm** *by Suzanna Windon**and Abbie Spackman- AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians-* This interactive workshop shares knowledge on farmers’ (occupational) stress and stress resilience strategies. The first part of the workshop will provide a background of stress, assessing and recognizing its symptoms. The second part will help participants cope with stress. During the workshop, I plan to use a short video and questions to the audience that stimulate critical thinking and group discussion. These will help us interact with the workshop participants.