



Cultivating
Accessible Agriculture



www.agrability.org
800-825-4264

WHAT IS AgrAbility ?



AgrAbility is a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers, other agricultural workers, and farm family members impacted by disability. It consists of a National Project and State/Regional Projects (currently serving 20 states), each involving collaborative partnerships between land-grant universities and various nonprofit disability services organizations.

The National Project is led by the Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University in partnership with Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, Osteoarthritis Action Alliance, AgriSafe Network, Colorado State University, and Washington State University. Support, funding, and oversight for AgrAbility come from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



What does AgrAbility do?

The vision of AgrAbility is to enhance quality of life 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.

Whom does AgrAbility serve?

AgrAbility serves those agricultural workers who are limited by any type of physical, cognitive, or illness-related disability, such as:

- amputation
- arthritis
- back impairment
- deafness/hearing impairment
- developmental disabilities, such as cerebral palsy or autism
- disabling diseases, such as cancer or heart disease
- mental/behavioral health problems
- respiratory diseases
- spinal cord injury
- stroke
- traumatic brain injury
- visual impairment



What services does AgrAbility provide?

AgrAbility offers the following services at no cost to customers:

- Conducting on-site assessments to identify barriers to completing tasks both in the agricultural workplace and the home.
- Recommending appropriate assistive technologies (equipment, tools, devices), modified work practices, and/or other possible solutions to overcoming disability-related limitations.
- Providing access to informational materials on a variety of topics related to disability and agriculture.
- Providing education/training opportunities through workshops, conferences, seminars, and on-line programs.
- Referring customers to other service providers for potential assistance (e.g., financial, rehabilitative, educational) specific to the clients' needs.
- Arranging for peer support opportunities that connect customers with others who have successfully accommodated their disabilities.
- Assisting military veterans seeking employment in agriculture-related occupations.

AgrAbility does not provide direct funding or equipment. However, AgrAbility Projects often work with state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and other funding sources to help customers obtain needed assistive technologies and modifications.



What impact has AgrAbility had?

Since it began in 1991, the AgrAbility Program has impacted the lives of thousands of people through direct services. In addition, new technologies have been developed and commercialized that have dramatically increased the independence of those working in agriculture. National training conferences have been held annually throughout the U.S. that have helped professionals and organizations serve the needs of people with disabilities working in agriculture. Relevant disability resources have been provided to a wide range of professionals across the country, including Cooperative Extension Service educators in every county office and FFA advisors in every chapter nationwide.

“When I was getting ready to throw in the towel, AgrAbility stepped in and gave me hope. If it wasn’t for AgrAbility’s support I would not be farming today.”

AGRABILITY CUSTOMER - UTAH

“AgrAbility is valuable because it puts people first. It meets the needs of the person. It helps the client overcome obstacles so they can continue working in their normal work atmosphere.”

AGRABILITY CUSTOMER - OKLAHOMA



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How do I contact AgrAbility?

National AgrAbility Project

Breaking New Ground Resource Center

Purdue University

ABE Building

225 South University Street

West Lafayette, IN 47907-2093

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Individuals in states without AgrAbility Projects may still receive certain services through the National Project.

Project Partners

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

Osteoarthritis Action Alliance

AgriSafe Network

Colorado State University

Washington State University

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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