



## UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY APRIL 2005 UPDATE

AgrAbility of Wisconsin promotes success in agriculture for individuals with disabilities. In a partnership between UW-Cooperative Extension and Easter Seals Wisconsin, the program assists farmers and farm workers with disabilities or chronic health conditions to continue to farm safely and productively. For more information on AgrAbility's services, call (608) 262-9336, toll-free at 1-800-422-2324, or e-mail [aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu).

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### **AGRABILITY AND EASTER SEALS FARM PROGRAM INTRODUCES NEW MEMBER**

AgrAbility of Wisconsin and Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM Program are pleased to introduce Julie Jensen, Self-Employment Specialist to the program. She grew up on a Chippewa County dairy farm and has earned a Masters Degree in Vocational and Technical Education. She came to program from the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation, working as a Business Enterprise Services and Training Teacher. Julie has joined the program as the first Self-Employment Specialist and will be assisting clients with disabilities who want to move in a new direction in agriculture. Julie is excited to join the program and looking forward to meeting agents as she travels to the numerous counties.

### **NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR MEETINGS**

Former AgrAbility of Wisconsin clients voluntarily host Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings yearly throughout Wisconsin. These informal meetings are designed to allow current clients and past clients to come together and discuss AgrAbility, farm modifications and discuss any concerns or questions current clients may have about the waiting list or other issues. Invitees are welcome to bring pictures of modifications as well as questions about the program's process and concerns regarding his or her operation. Staff members of AgrAbility and Easter Seals FARM Program attend, only to be available to answer any questions regarding the program.

Three meetings were held in March of this year. Gene Zimmerman's family in Dodge County, William Jaquish's family in Sauk County and David Mayenshein in Taylor County. AgrAbility and Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM Program staff would like to thank these three farm families for hosting this year's meetings. The success of the meetings is encouraging and AgrAbility would like to increase the number of meetings held each year. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings, please feel free to contact Cally Abplanalp, Associate Outreach Specialist, at (608) 262-9336 or e-mail at [aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu).

### **AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD**

The winter show season is coming to an end, but I enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout Wisconsin these past few months. I've seen old and new faces alike and look forward to upcoming events. If I will be in your area in the near future, stop by and say hello.

#### **PAST EVENTS**

- February 11-12, 2005 **Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention** Waukesha
- March 1-2, 2005 **42<sup>nd</sup> Eau Claire Farm Show** Eau Claire
- March 5, 2005 **Fond du Lac Agriculture Showcase and Celebration** Fond du Lac
- March 8-9, 2005 **PDPW 2005 Annual Business Conference** Madison
- March 29-31, 2005 **WPS Farm Show** Oshkosh
- April 13, 2005 **Wisconsin Rural Leadership Summit** Eau Claire

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 28, 2005 **Assistive Technology and Resource Fair** Turtle Lake
- May 19, 2005 **Kewaunee County Rural Safety Days** Kewaunee
- June 15, 2005 **WI FFA Lifework Expo** Madison
- July 12-14, 2005 **Farm Technology Days** Loyal

## **PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER**

The Spring 2005 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was sent in April. If you did not receive the newsletter and you are interested in receiving it, please contact me at 608.262.9336 or caabplanalp@wisc.edu.

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*AgrAbility – Promoting Success in Agriculture for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families.*  
Visit us at <http://bse.wisc.edu/agrability>.

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