



UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY MARCH 2006 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.

Wisconsin Public Service Farm Show Goes the Extra Mile

Every year, farmers and non-farmers attend numerous farm shows. Walking is part of the experience of farm shows, but for some visitors, a day of walking is a challenge, leaving many to either suffer through the day, or avoid farm shows altogether. The WPS Farm Show, which takes place every year at the Experimental Aircraft Association Air Grounds in Oshkosh, WI is one of the largest farm shows in Wisconsin and the only one currently offering free scooter rentals to farm show visitors. Last year, AgrAbility of Wisconsin and Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM Program had the opportunity to work with the Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Farm Show staff to increase awareness of farmers with mobility issues and some visitors' difficulty attending farm shows. WPS responded by contracting with rental companies to provide free scooter rentals for visitors with mobility issues. Last year's response to this service was so successful that the WPS staff changed vendors to meet the increased demand for scooters. This year, WPS worked with Kansas-based Active Mobility, Inc. to provide 25 to 30 scooters, 15 children's wagons and 10 to 15 manual wheelchairs free of charge to visitors. Sue Kelley, Rental Event Coordinator for Active Mobility, Inc. said, "Typically, consumers are charged a rental rate at shows where scooters are made available, but WPS is providing this service at no charge. It shows they care about the people coming to this show." AgrAbility of Wisconsin was pleased to promote the WPS Farm Show staff efforts as the feature story for the Spring 2006 Plowing Ahead.

If anyone is interested in reading the full article, please visit www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability for the PDF or HTML version of the Spring 2006 Plowing Ahead Newsletter.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin Partnerships Honored

Mutual of America Foundation, which recognizes the strength of community partnerships with their prestigious national Community Partnership Award, will honor the partnership between Easter Seals of Wisconsin FARM Program, the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Each year hundreds of organizations across the country apply for this award, with only the top 10 in the nation receiving recognition. On April 26, 2006, in Madison, Wisconsin, an awards celebration will be hosted by the Mutual of America Foundation to honor these partnerships created through the AgrAbility of Wisconsin program

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

If I will be in your area in the near future, stop by and say hello:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5, 2006 **Farmer Appreciation Day** Shawano
- April 26, 2006 **Wisconsin Community Leadership Summit** Appleton
- April 27, 2006 **North Country Ind. Living Assistive Technology Fair** Ashland
- May 19, 2006 **Kewaunee County Safety Day Camp**

PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Spring 2006 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was sent at the beginning of March. If you did not receive the newsletter and are interested in receiving it, please contact me at 608.262.9336 or aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu. You can also access the current and past newsletters online at www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability.

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