



UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY SEPTEMBER 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.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR MEETINGS

AgrAbility currently has three Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings planned for the month of September. These meetings are designed to allow farmers waiting for service the opportunity to sit around the kitchen table in an informal setting and talk with other current and former clients. The meetings allow farmers the opportunity to talk about concerns, farming with a disability or whatever topics come up in conversation. An Easter Seals FARM Program Rehabilitation Specialist and I attend these meetings to help mediate and answer any questions that may arise. If anyone is interested in learning more about these meetings, please feel free to contact me.

AGRABILITY OF WISCONSIN IMPACT EVALUATION

Since 1991 AgrAbility of Wisconsin staff has been helping Wisconsin farmers with disabilities succeed in farming. During that time more than 1,200 farmers have received information and worksite assessment plans and nearly all the plans have been implemented. In 2003, the National AgrAbility Project conducted an impact survey of farmers who were clients in state projects. Two hundred AgrAbility of Wisconsin clients were sent an evaluation and 116 clients completed the evaluation to measure the impact of the AgrAbility program. The impact evaluation addressed the tasks performed before and after acquiring a disability, the quality of the assistance, and the impact of the assistance on the farm's productivity and financial return. The evaluation can be found in a PDF file at <http://www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability> under Publications and Resources.

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

Summer has sadly come to an end, but the fall season is swinging into full gear! If I will be in your area in the near future, stop by and say hello:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 27, 2005 **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meeting** Juneau
- September 28, 2005 **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meeting** Elroy
- September 29, 2005 **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meeting** Fennimore
- October 13, 2005 **Women's Vet Fair** Spooner
- October 21 & 22, 2005 **Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Association Conference** Appleton
- November 8-10, 2005 **National AgrAbility Project Workshop** Burlington, Vermont

PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Fall 2005 Plowing Ahead Newsletter will be sent in the beginning of October. If you do not receive the newsletter and you are interested in receiving it, please contact me at 608.262.9336 or caabplanalp@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>.
