



UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY MARCH 2007 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.

EASTER SEALS FARM PROGRAM AND AAW STAFF MEMBERS AND AREAS

Since your knowledge of who we are and what we do is vital to the success of the AgrAbility Program, you should know who is the Rehabilitation Specialist working in your area of the state and how to contact them as well as the process involved with the program. When a client contacts the program about interest in participation, they contact Cally Ehle in Extension (Biological Systems Engineering). After sending information about the program and answering any questions, if the farmer decides that they are interested, basic demographic information is collected by Cally and entered into the AAW database. After a phone interview with T Ellenbecker, an ESW Rehabilitation Specialist based out of Wausau, if they are found eligible the client is assigned a rehabilitation specialist. Also this is the period of time that information about other resources and organizations that may help the farmer and how to contact these resources is provided. The rehabilitation specialist visits the client's farm to create a farm assessment of assistive technology adaptations and modifications that may help the client. Holly Allen's office is based out of Green Bay. She covers the northeastern area of the state and can be contacted via email <mailto:hallen@wi.easterseals.com>. Jeff Kratochwill's office is in Madison and he covers the northwestern and north central parts of the state. Jeff can be contacted at jkratochwill@wi.easterseals.com. Bruce Whitmore covers southern Wisconsin and his office is based in Jefferson. He can be contacted at bwhitmore@wi.easterseals.com. Paul Leverenz, Vice President of the FARM Program can be contacted at pleverenz@wi.easterseals.com. If you would like general information about the program or unsure of who to contact, feel free to contact me at ehle@wisc.edu or at 608.262.9336.

WPS FARM SHOW, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The WPS Farm Show presents a unique opportunity of individuals with mobility issues by providing free of charge scooters during the three day show. Several of AAW's clients have utilized this opportunity and had several comments regarding this service. One farmer mentioned that last year was the first time he has attended the show since it moved from Green Bay because of the scooter availability. "It's nice, I don't have to walk because I wouldn't make it if I had to walk through all this," a past AAW client said. Another former client explained that the hardest part of not having as much mobility is not spending as much time with her children in activities outside of the farm. She said that she feels guilty not being able to do activities with her kids, but with the scooter at the farm show, she has a chance to get out with her kids and enjoy the family time. If you talk to someone who utilized the free scooter, please let the WPS Farm Show staff know that the service that provide is valuable and appreciated.

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 11 **Western Tech OT Class Presentation, La Crosse**
- April 18 **Shawano County Farm Show, Shawano**
- April 18 **Western Tech OT Class Farm Visit, Edgar**
- April 17-19 **JCEP Conference**

PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Spring 2007 Plowing Ahead Newsletter will be mailed this week. The newsletter features Dan Turben, a client of AgrAbility of Wisconsin, who modified his farm operation to accommodate his disability after an automobile accident. Other articles include an update about the ESW FARM calf project, updated information about the new insurance available to farmers and a Partner's Piece by Jeff Kratochwill, the newest member of the ESW FARM Program. Look for the Spring 2007 newsletter around the end of March. If you do 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>.
