



## **UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY NOVEMBER 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](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu).

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### **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

The AgrAbility of Wisconsin annual Advisory Council meeting was held on Friday, November 3, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station. Twenty-five members of the council attended the meeting and had the opportunity to meet former AAW client, Ed Dittbrenner as he shared his story of success. This last year AAW served 354 clients and is actively serving 273 clients with 57 clients closed this year. These numbers show that the program is on its way to possibly exceeding last year's number of total clients served. This year's Advisory Council meeting was significant since it is Ron Schuler's last Advisory meeting before his retirement in January thanks to Rick Klemme's speech, the group was able to give Ron a proper send off. In the next update, I will be including more information and statistics regarding last year's clients.

### **EASTER SEALS WISCONSIN FARM PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT**

Easter Seals Wisconsin received a Department of Education's National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research grant. This 3-year \$200,000 project, Agricultural Assistive Technology Equipment Reutilization, will evaluate how assistive technology is being used by more than 300 past clients, a sample of the farmers served in Wisconsin. Reutilizing AT and creating a more affordable source of AT is a project goal. Easter Seals will collaborate with the University of Wisconsin (UW) Survey Center to survey past AgrAbility clients about their use of AT and with the National AgrAbility Project and AgrAbility of Wisconsin (AAW) to create the new web-based system.

### **AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD**

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

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 17-18, 2007 **LaCrosse Farm Show, LaCrosse**
- January 23-24, 2007 **Rice Lake Area Farm Show, Rice Lake**
- January 31-February 1, 2007 **Jefferson County Farm Show, Jefferson**
- March 3, 2007 **Fond du Lac Ag Showcase and Celebration, Fond du Lac**
- March 6-7 **Eau Claire Farm Show, Eau Claire**

### **PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER**

The Fall 2006 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was mailed the week of November 6. The newsletter features a farmer from Arpin, WI who was willing to try a different approach to storing and feeding forage. Other articles include an update about the ESW FARM calf project, the recent round of Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings and a Partner's Piece by Brian Holmes. If you have not received the newsletter and are interested in receiving it, please contact me at 608.262.9336 or [aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu). You can also access the current and past newsletters online at [www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability](http://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>.

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