



UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY JULY 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.

AGRABILITY OF WISCONSIN 101

Since there are always staff changes occurring throughout the state extension offices, the AgrAbility staff feels that it is important to let new staff members know more about us as well as update current staff regarding the details of the AgrAbility program. For this reason, the next couple of months will include an AgrAbility 101 for extension staff to learn about or just have a refresher regarding the program.

A confusing concept of the program for professionals and farmers tends to be the relationships of the organizations that make up the program. For the AgrAbility program to exist in a state, an extension program must partner with a non-profit, disability organization. In Wisconsin, the non-profit partner happens to be the Easter Seals Wisconsin. This partnership allows for extension to work with the outreach and promotion of the program and for the Easter Seals FARM rehabilitation specialists to work directly with the farmers through on-site farm assessments, assistive technology suggestions and other related assistance. The extension partner is the first contact when a farmer is interested in the program and the initial sign-up for participation. After the farmer signs up for the program, he or she is referred to a rehabilitation specialist who, after an extensive phone interview, will provide the farmer with information and resources of other organizations that may be able to assist further.

This is the first step in the process of the AgrAbility of Wisconsin program; next month will be more information about the relationship between AgrAbility, FARM and other organizations within the state.

AAW ASSISTIVE TECH AWARENESS DAY

AgrAbility hosted the first AAW Assistive Tech Awareness Day on July 18, 2007 at the Marathon County Park. The day included a short program of introduction of representatives from different organizations throughout the area that are available to farmers. Then a casual meet and greet time was made available to farmers, allowing farmers the opportunity to meet with representatives from organizations such as UW Extension, WI DVR, WI DATCP, NRCS and numerous other organizations that are available to farmers. Thank you to everyone who attended and sent the word out to farmers in the area!

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 31 **Jefferson County Safety Day, Jefferson Cty Fairgrounds, Jefferson**
- September 18-20, 2007 **Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Albany**

PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Summer 2007 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was mailed during the beginning of the month. The newsletter featured a look into the programs and events that make AgrAbility of Wisconsin successful as well as information about the upcoming AgrAbility Assistive Tech Awareness Day. The Fall 2007 Plowing Ahead Newsletter will be available in October. 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>.
