



UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY NOVEMBER 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.

2007 AGRABILITY OF WISCONSIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

AgrAbility of Wisconsin held the annual Advisory Council Meeting on November 9, 2007 at the West Madison Research Station in Madison. Twenty-five people attended the meeting and had the opportunity to learn about what has been happening in the 2007-08-grant year for AAW. Carl Schmidt, a dairy farmer from Jackson, attended as the guest speaker to talk to the council about his farm operation and how AgrAbility assisted him to continue farming after a viral infection left him weak in his right foot and hand (Carl's story is featured in the fall Plowing Ahead Newsletter). A report was given regarding the number of clients AAW worked with last year, including a total of 403 active clients, 126 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Assessments and closure of 97clients. The program is well on its way to reaching and potentially exceeding last years numbers with a total of 318 active clients and 79 closed clients to date. The Advisory Council also provided input on topics regarding the improvement of the program and how AAW can better serve farmers. It consists of former AAW clients, and representatives from organizations such as Wisconsin Farm Center, Department of Health and Family Services, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Rural Insurance and other organizations involved in the agriculture community.

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

The next few months will be busy with a break before the rush of the 2008 farm shows. If I will be in your area in the near future, stop by and say hello:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16-17, 2008 **Greater Midwest Farm Show, La Crosse**
- January 30-31, 2008 **Southern Wisconsin Farm Expo, Jefferson**
- February 6-7, 2008 **Rice Lake Area Farm Show, Rice Lake**
- March 1, 2008 **Fond du Lac Ag Showcase & Celebration, Fond du Lac**
- March 4-5, 2008 **Greater Eau Claire Farm Show, Eau Claire**

PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Fall 2007 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was sent out last week. 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>.
