



## UW EXTENSION -- AGRABILITY APRIL 2008 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).

### AAW YEAR END TOTALS

The AgrAbility of Wisconsin grant year ended on April 14, 2008. At the end of this year, AgrAbility actively served 479 farmers; closed 131 farmer's cases and program enrolled 161 new farmers. Thanks to the partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the ESW Rural Rehab Specialists completed a total of 106 DVR farmer cases. These numbers are growing with each grant year and are a testament to the work that AgrAbility of Wisconsin and Easter Seals FARM program is doing throughout the state. As of Monday, April 28, 2008, AgrAbility Satisfaction Survey was sent out to all clients closed in the 2007-08-grant year. This will be reported on in another Ag Agent update as the surveys are returned. Thanks to everyone who plays his or her role in making this program one of the largest and most successful AgrAbility projects in the nation!

### NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR MEETINGS UPDATE

AAW holds three Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings each year. 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 the program and farming with a disability. An Easter Seals FARM Program Rehabilitation Specialist and I attend these meetings to help facilitate and answer any questions that may arise. These meetings are a great opportunity for farmers in various stages of the AgrAbility program to meet with others and receive feedback as to the process and additional peer support. The staff encourages non-AAW clients to attend as well, as this is beneficial to all farmers. This is where our extension agents can help! If you know of any farmer who may be interested in learning more about AgrAbility or just would like some ideas and support from others in the farming community, please feel free to let them know about these meetings. They will be posted in the monthly report and if you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at 608.262.9336 or at [ehle@wisc.edu](mailto:ehle@wisc.edu). The last Neighbor-to-Neighbor meeting was held on March 27, 2008 at the Joe Strenke farm near Spooner. We had an attendance of 10 farmers who are in various stages of the program or were interested in signing up for the first time. We are currently exploring areas to hold the next three Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings during the summer and early fall of 2008.

### AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD

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

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 22 **Kewaunee County Safety Day Camp**, Luxemburg
- June 11 **WI State FFA Lifeworks Expo**, Madison
- July 14-16 **Farm Technology Days**, Brown County

### PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER

The Spring 2008 Plowing Ahead Newsletter was mailed at the beginning of April. The newsletter features a Year in Review of the 2007-08 AgrAbility of Wisconsin year. 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](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.*  
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