



UW EXTENSION – AGRABILITY AUGUST 2010 UPDATE

AgrAbility of Wisconsin (AAW) 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 Bob Meyer at (608) 262-9336, toll-free at 1-800-422-2324, or e-mail aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu.

AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITIONS OPEN FOR FALL

AgrAbility of Wisconsin and the Easter Seals FARM Program is looking for two AmeriCorps member positions for this fall. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested, these positions will be housed on campus at UW-Madison this fall. The FARM Program Assistant will support client intake services with the UWEX office and the FARM Assistive Technology Assistant position will help develop worksite plans and collect bids to support the Rural Rehabilitation Specialists at Easter Seals. For more information on either of these postings, contact Bob Meyer at aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu or have applicants apply directly at: <http://www.americorps.gov/>

FALL NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR MEETINGS

This fall (late September, early October), we plan to hold our annual series of Neighbor to Neighbor meetings. This fall we are hoping to be at farms in Ashland, Clark and Vernon/Monroe County. Once final site locations are identified we will the respective county staff know the date and time of the meetings. The meetings are a chance for up to 10 active and recently closed AgrAbility of Wisconsin clients to meet up and discuss how things are going for them and to build a local network of support.

AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD— UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the AgrAbility booth at Farm Progress Days in Pierce County. The next big event for AgrAbility of Wisconsin will be the Indian Summer Festival in Milwaukee Sept 9 – 11, 2010. There is a special focus this year on Native American veterans and first responders. See <http://www.indiansummer.org/> for more details.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WEBSITES

The Ag Equipment Exchange has newly added used equipment available for farmers in need. This equipment is ready to be transferred to farmers needing the equipment. If you have farmers who may be interested in donating equipment to farmers in need, please direct them to the website. This equipment does not have to be disability specific as many items like added steps, lighter milking units, and automatic take offs are common off-the-shelf solutions for helping farmers experiencing difficulty. The URL for the exchange website is: <http://144.92.31.11/main.php>

The UWEX FYI site has a searchable database of off-the-shelf products available. New features of this database include a gallery view for pictures of the equipment, and search ability by category or limitation (left hand column). These quick search buttons allow you to click on a topic like "Fencing" or "Vision Loss" and find all the products that have been entered into the database that might help individuals looking for technologies to help them farm easier. There are over 800 products currently listed in the database.

AgrAbility – Promoting Success in Agriculture for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families
Visit us at <http://bse.wisc.edu/agrability>