



## UW EXTENSION – AGRABILITY JANUARY 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](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu).

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\*\*Quick note from Bob: The update is back on track. Sorry for the delay.

### **AAW STAFF UPDATE**

Mary Beck, UW AgrAbility Senior Outreach Specialist accepted a position with UW Stout as program manager for a new employment training and technical assistance center for Managed Care/Family organizations. Bob Meyer, formerly with the national AgrAbility Project assumed the Outreach Specialist role last August. Bob has a background in industrial engineering and evaluation. Bob has been busy learning the ropes, working on the grant reapplication, and all the other outreach and client activities that take place.

### **NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR MEETINGS**

Last fall, we held three Neighbor to Neighbor meetings around the state. Dunn County farmer, Don Hartung, hosted a meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Linda Hytry, Marathon County held a meeting at her farm November 17<sup>th</sup>. Tina Kanable, Sauk County hosted one at their Spring Green farm on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of these informal meetings is to allow the farmers to visit with a few of their neighbors who are in various stages of the process with AgrAbility and DVR.

### **AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT EXCHANGES**

The Ag Equipment Exchange project has had 5 equipment exchanges between AAW clients. A chair lift, seat suspension system, drive through gates, a bale carrier wagon and an Agri-speed hitch have been donated by former AAW clients and given to AAW farmers needing the equipment. The URL for the exchange website is: <http://144.92.31.11/main.php>

### **PLOWING AHEAD NEWSLETTER**

The Plowing Ahead Newsletter (Vol 18, No1) will feature the Ag Assessment Training and the partnership between AAW and the Farmer Networking Opportunities. If you do not receive your copy, please contact Bob Meyer, at 608.262.9336 or [aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu) Past newsletters are also available online at [www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability](http://www.bse.wisc.edu/agrability).

### **AGRABILITY ON THE ROAD— UPCOMING EVENTS**

Upcoming events are listed below. Please stop by and say hi at any of the farm shows and tell farmers you know to do the same.

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Farm Show, LaCrosse Center, January 13 – 14.
- 47<sup>th</sup> Eau Claire Farm Show, Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center, March 2 – 3.
- Fond du Lac Area Ag Showcase, March 6, 2010
- WPS Farm Show, EAA Grounds Oshkosh, WI March 30 – April 1.

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