



## **UW EXTENSION – AGRABILITY MAY 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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### **FUNDING AWARD, STAFF CHANGES -- AgrAbility of Wisconsin**

AgrAbility of Wisconsin and the FARM Program of Easter Seals Wisconsin was awarded a 4-year grant to continue our work with farmers with disabilities in Wisconsin. AgrAbility of Wisconsin has been continuously funded since the program's inception and has worked with close to 2,000 Wisconsin farmers since 1991. We continue to work with over 100 new farmer clients each year, develop and promote safe return to work technologies for farmers, and collaborate with other agencies in the state to provide assistance to farmers with disabilities.

The Project Leader for the new grant is Dr. Dick Straub, PhD from the Biological Systems Engineering Department. Project Leader will be Dr. Richard "Dick" Straub, PhD. Dick has been a member of the Biological Systems Engineering Department at UW-Madison for over 30 years. Since 1999, he has also held administrative positions in the college. Dick has been involved in a freshmen engineering course where students complete design projects, several for farmers with disabilities. He has operated on an active farm all his professional life.

We want to thank Dr. Ron Schuler, PhD for all of his hard work over these many years supporting farmers with disabilities and the efforts of AgrAbility throughout the nation. Ron successfully guided the state project since its inception and led the National AgrAbility Project while it was housed at UW-Madison from 2000-2008. Ron hasn't retired completely yet, he will be general manager of the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.

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

The summer outreach season will see AgrAbility of Wisconsin traveling to and exhibiting at a number of venues. Upcoming events are listed below. Feel free to stop by and tell farmers who may be interested in AgrAbility services to do the same.

- Assistive Technology Resource Fair, Green Bay, Lambeau Field, May 13, 2010
- Assistive Technology (AT) Demonstration and Resource Fair, May 19, 2010, AmericInn Hotel Conference Center Ashland, WI.
- Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, July 20 – 22, 2010, Pierce County.

### **AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE UPDATE**

The Ag Equipment Exchange has newly added used equipment available for farmers in need including: a round bale slicer for skid steer, freestall dividers, feed belt conveyors, and an electric wheelchair. 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>

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