What is Ohio AgrAbility?
The Ohio AgrAbility Program is part of a national program that promotes independence for people in agriculture who want to continue to farm after experiencing a disabling condition. Our program’s goal is to provide education, resources, and technical assistance to those individuals and their families so they may continue to be successful in agriculture. The Ohio State University has partnered with Easter Seals to bring this program to you at the local level.

Why is there a need for AgrAbility?
Agriculture consistently ranks as one of the nation’s most dangerous occupations. Each year, agricultural workers in Ohio experience injuries that limit their ability to perform essential tasks.

Some agricultural workers acquire disabilities through off-the-farm incidents, illness, or health problems such as heart disease, arthritis, or cancer.

Senior farmers often experience limitations such as decreased vision, or hearing, or loss of strength.

Ohio AgrAbility Program Team

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What is universal design?
Universal design is a broad-spectrum solution that produces buildings, products, and environments that are easily usable for everyone, not just people with disabilities. The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and environments more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities. Examples include:

- Level ground surfaces of entryways -- without stairs
- Large handles on buckets, utensils and tools
- Lever handles for doors rather than knobs that twist
- Light switches with large flat panels rather than toggle switches
- Accessible cabinets, storage spaces, and work stations

What is assistive technology?
Assistive technology includes any kind of device, modification, or service that will help a person with a disability work and live more independently. It may be low or high tech, expensive or inexpensive, but ultimately it helps someone complete a job that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.

Examples of Assistive Technology
- Modified steps or handles
- Hand controls
- Lever extensions
- Outdoor mobility aids
- Motorized lifts

What can Ohio AgrAbility do for you?
Through the help of Ohio AgrAbility, assistive technology, and universal design, men and women with physical limitations can continue to do what they love -- farm. We can provide the following no-cost services:

* **On-Site Assessment and Technical Assistance**
The Ohio AgrAbility Program provides on-site home and agricultural worksite assessments to help find solutions that will meet your specific needs. Assistive technologies and universal design concepts can help to make it easier for you to continue farming. We can work with you on how to restructure work tasks or agricultural operations, modify equipment or tools, or explore alternative agricultural enterprises. We also can recommend state and local resources that may be available to help you in adapting your work environment.

* **Peer Support**
Peer support is a system of giving and receiving help founded on the key principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement empathically through the shared experience. Ohio AgrAbility encourages peer to peer support among both caregivers and care receivers.

* **Secondary Injury Prevention**
Ohio AgrAbility creates awareness and provides information on preventing further injuries or disabling conditions.

**Information and Referral Materials**
Ohio AgrAbility provides information and resources about farming with a disability. This includes referral materials about services available in agriculture, in rehabilitation, and in your community.

**Training and Education**
Ohio AgrAbility provides training and education for rehabilitation/healthcare providers, emergency response agencies, agricultural professionals, and other community agricultural groups.

**Direct Education and Community Programs**
Our team is eager to educate Ohioans about resources available for farm workers and their families whose lifestyle and businesses have been impacted by disability.

Contact us for ideas on assistive technology and universal design for your next community project within your school or civic group.

**Who can use Ohio AgrAbility?**
The Ohio AgrAbility Program can assist those engaged in agriculture who have a disability. Some disabilities may be present at birth, while others may be the result of an accident, illness, or age-related condition and may include:

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**
- Head and Spinal Cord Injuries
- Parkinson’s Disease
- Repetitive Motion Injuries
- Respiratory Problems
- Visual or Hearing Impairment

**AMPUTATION**
- Arthritis
- Cerebral Palsy
- Diabetes
- Paralysis