

Assistive technology to keep you farming

Agricultural and Natural Resource Madness: Ohio AgrAbility Bracket, April 10, 2020

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Ohio AgrAbility's mission is to promote success in agriculture for Ohio's farmers and farm families who are coping with disability or a long-term health condition

Ohio AgrAbility also provides education and resources to farmers, agricultural businesses and groups, healthcare, education and disability professionals, and anyone interested in making farming safe and accessible.

Ohio AgrAbility is part of a national network of state & regional AgrAbility projects. Funding is based on the U.S. Farm Bill and is competitively awarded on 4-year cycles. Funds are awarded to a state team comprised of a land grant university and a non-profit organization: Ohio State University & Easter Seals of Greater Cincinnati.

Please note that Ohio AgrAbility cannot purchase equipment or provide farmers with financial support. Staff may make referrals to available agricultural, vocational rehabilitation or community service organizations, some of which may be able to purchase equipment or provide financial assistance directly to farmers.

• **Ohio AgrAbility Services**

- Worksite modifications
- Adaptive tools
- Accessibility issues
- Assistive technologies
- Health and safety information
- Secondary injury prevention

• **Ohio AgrAbility helps identify ways to keep farmers working**

- **Recommendations** and a plan to keep that individual farming
- **Reasonable expectations** with farmers and their families
- What does the farmer want help with?

• **I don't have a disability, why should I consider changing how I work?**

- Increased safety
- Injury prevention
- Increased productivity
- Assistive Tech available
- Ease of use (equipment)
- Pain management or avoidance
- Positive impact on family and employees

What if someone just wants information, not a whole “farm visit & assessment?”

Workshop topics:

- Farming with a disability
- Arthritis and Agriculture
- Gardening & Farming with Arthritis
- Collaborating with Ohio AgrAbility
- Accessible AgriTourism

Displays at:

- Community events & health fairs
- Field days
- Ag safety seminars
- Agricultural trade shows
- Civic organization events

AT, Modifications and Assessments – definitions

- **AT/Assistive Technology** – equipment, software and devices to increase or maintain function, productivity & independence
- **Modifications** – Adjustments or attachments for machinery or facilities to make the original item safer & easier to use
- **Assessments** - Report detailing farmer’s ability and disability, farm operation & equipment.
- Recommendations for modifications, AT or services

What happens when I call Ohio AgrAbility?

- Introduction and initial contact
- Farm visit and recommendations
- Assistance and referrals
- Plan implementation
- Peer to Peer Network
- Continued support & education

Introduction and initial contact

- Contact Ohio AgrAbility
- Brief conversation about your work on the farm, and how disability impacts your work
- Explanation of Ohio AgrAbility services
- Referred to Rural Rehabilitation Coordinator to schedule a farm visit

Farm visit & work plan

- Rural Rehabilitation Coordinator (RRC) will visit you at your farm, talk to you about your work, equipment and facilities and make recommendations
- Safe and accessible work process
- Modifications to equipment or worksite
- OOD services explained (optional, no obligation to apply for services, no guarantee of services being given)
- RRC makes recommendations and assists with identifying appropriate AT and modifications

Vocational Rehabilitation in Ohio

- **Vocational Rehabilitation** – services for people with disabilities, intended to help them overcome and manage barriers to continue or return to work, often administered by a government agency

- **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)** – Ohio’s Vocational Rehabilitation agency, may assist Ohio AgrAbility clients with purchase of AT or modifications

Work plan implementation

- RRCs will assist with selecting AT and modifications
- RRCs may be on hand for delivery and installation
- Follow up with farmer about AT and modifications – safe use, good fit, problem solving
- Check in with farmer a few times a year, or as needed

Peer to Peer network

- OAP farmers and staff meet 2 times a year for workshops and networking
- Introduction of new AT
- Farmers share solutions for problems, or work together to problem solve issues
- Daily meetings at Farm Science Review
- Summer meeting

Continued support and contact

- Once an OAP farmer, always an OAP farmer
- Quarterly Ag STAT newsletters
- Follow up by OAP staff
- Peer to Peer Network
- Updated assessments to address new/worsening disability or health issues (as needed)

For more information Agrability.osu.edu/resources

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