



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.

We encourage the Ohio's agribusiness sector to partner with the Ohio AgrAbility Program to better serve agricultural customers with special equipment needs.

Ohio AgrAbility

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Ohio State University Extension

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go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity



Promoting success in agriculture for Ohio's farmers and farm families who are coping with disability or a long-term health condition.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES





Who can Access 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.

What can Ohio AgrAbility do for you?

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.

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.

Technical Assistance and Modification

Ohio AgrAbility staff recommend work site, farm equipment and work process modifications so that farmers with disabilities or chronic conditions can continue to do what they love - farm.

Ohio AgrAbility has fact sheets on a variety of disability and farming topics at agrability.osu.edu/resources/factsheets

The Ohio AgrAbility Referral and Service Process: *What to expect when you contact us.*

Introduction and Initial Contact

- Farmer or family contacts Ohio AgrAbility.
- Conversation to determine eligibility and type of services requested.

Farm Visit and On-Site Assessment

- Ohio AgrAbility Rural Rehabilitation Coordinators meet with the farmer and their family to review needs, eligibility for vocational rehabilitation or other services.
- Discuss reasonable expectations with farmers and their families.
- Explain what AgrAbility does and does not provide.

Recommendations and Referrals

- Ohio AgrAbility Program works with the farmer to develop a plan to keep that individual farming.
- Peer to Peer Network – connecting farmers and farm families.
- Our Rural Rehabilitation Coordinators develop an individualized plan for the farmer, making sure the equipment and Assistive Technology are a good match for the work environment. Many plans can be submitted to Opportunities for Ohioan's with Disabilities for review of eligibility and possible additional funding.

Plan Implementation

- Assist with looking at appropriate Assistive Technology items, and getting price quotes.
- Purchase of equipment or assistive technology.
- Follow up with farmers.
- Continue to work with the farmer to solve problems to maintain productivity and success.

Educational 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.

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

Current Workshop and Training Topics

Farming with a Disability

The Ohio AgrAbility program works with farmers with disabilities to modify/restructure work tasks, utilize assistive technology and to prevent secondary injury so they can continue farming.

Arthritis in Ag

Discover how arthritis impacts our agricultural communities and effective ways to manage arthritis on the farm.

Gardening & Urban Ag

Learn creative solutions to continue working in your garden or small farm.

Preventing Injuries on the Farm

Learn about hazards and how to prevent common ag injuries.

Collaborating with Ohio AgrAbility

Program information for disability services, education, rural health, Extension professionals and community advocates.

We are happy to work with you on developing a workshop that addresses your needs.