Why AgrAbility?

- Farming is dangerous
- Over 700 farmers and ranchers die each year
- 120,000 suffer disabling injuries
- Senior farmers are at increased risk from farm accidents and injuries
- Nationwide, 288,000 agricultural workers ages 15-79 reported having a disability that affects their ability to perform one or more essential tasks
- Chronic health conditions and diseases disable thousands more farmers each year

People With Disabilities... Continue To Work In Agriculture

- Three million Americans earn their living in agriculture
- Agriculture is not just their livelihood -- it is a productive and satisfying way of life
AgrAbility Mission

Promote success in agriculture for farmers and farm family members with disabilities
AgrABILITY
....A National Project....

- Administered by National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- USDA Funding (Began with 1990 Farm Bill Act; joint program with farm safety and health)
- Project between University Extension and Non-Profit Disability Groups
- 21+ states
- 4-year funding cycle
- Goal … to help farmers, ranchers, and farm workers with disabilities and their families continue to work in agriculture
AgrAbility Project Priorities

- Education
- Networking
- Assistance
Missouri AgrAbility Project

- 13th year
- Partners
  - University of Missouri Extension
  - MU Division of Food Systems and Bioengineering, Department of Agricultural Systems Management
  - Departments of Occupational/Physical Therapy
  - Centers for Independent Living
  - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Goal ... build a permanent capability at both the state and community-based level
  - Build strong connections with the medical community and other service providers
  - Serve as catalyst for development of community-based programs on health, recreation, engineering, and rehabilitation
“UNIQUE”
Missouri AgrAbility Project

- Combines research and education with outreach
- Links medical school with MU Extension, AgrAbility Program, and Rural Safety and Health Program
- Provides a way of coordinating and encouraging direct services at the community-based level
- Creates an awareness of chronic disease and disability as well as specific needs/issues of farmers and brings it right into the classroom
Who Are AgrAbility Clients?

- Farmers, ranchers, farm workers, farm families, others in rural areas
- Any disabling condition eligible
- Conditions in rural areas:
  - Farmers are older people
  - Retired people, rural lifestyle farmers
  - Physically demanding job/tasks
    - arthritis most common
  - Limited health care
- Focus is on living independently and having a better quality of life [which includes work, recreation, exercise, and leisure activities]

It’s all about… Keeping Life in a Good Healthy Balance
Who Is Eligible for Help?

Anyone with physical, cognitive or illness-related disability

- amputations
- back pain
- cancer
- cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- multiple sclerosis
- post polio syndrome
- spinal cord injury
- traumatic brain injuries
- arthritis
- blindness or vision impairments
- cardiac problems
- deafness or hearing impairments
- mental retardation
- muscular dystrophy
- respiratory problems
- stroke
Education

Build service capacity by educating health, agriculture, social service agencies, and government service providers.
Networking

Expand program capacity by sharing resources with, and securing services from, individuals or organizations
Assistance

Provide consultation and technical assistance to farmers/ranchers to increase likelihood of remaining in production agriculture.
Assistance: On-Site

- Work with farmer to determine his/her goals and abilities
- Provide on-site technical assistance on ways to adapt, modify or accommodate
  - Work tasks
  - Worksite
  - Tools, equipment & machinery
  - Home
Assistance – On Site

- Explore ways to change the work task and/or the work environment
- Modify or alter the agricultural operation and work tasks
- Recommend commercial equipment or accessories that can accommodate the limitations of the disability
Assistive Technology

Modify to Reduce Knee & Hip Bending
Assistive Technology
Assistive Technology
Assistive Technology

Brake hand controls on tractor

Brake & gas control in utility vehicle
Assistive Technology
Adapted Gardening Equipment

Garden Scoot

Fist-Grip Garden Tools

Garden Rocker Seat
Assistive Technology

- Backtee -- a device used to "tee the ball up" without requiring any bending or stooping
- The Backtee helps eliminate the physical 'wear and tear' on major joints and muscle groups when playing that crazy game called golf
Assistive Technology

Wanderer All-Terrain Wheelchair

Sport equipment for “INCLUSION” designed to be used for “Adapted Recreation and Sporting Equipment for People with Disabilities and Aged”

- Hiking trails, rural gravel roads, and streets
- Rough uneven rural properties, parks, and garden areas
- On the snow
- At the beach
Assistive Technology

Adapted Bike

Joseph Smith from a rural farming community in Northeast Missouri rides an adapted bike and finally is able to participate in most, if not all, activities at school, home, and play.
Assistive Technology

Adapted Fishing Equipment

- Electronic Reelers fishing pole, hand grip, and arm attachments attach to wheel chairs
- All equipment can be easily used during the fishing season for individuals who have never fished or have lost the ability to fish like they once did
Assistive Technology

Adapted Fishing Equipment

- The Strong Arm is a versatile fishing rod holder. Fishing rod holder for anyone with limited or no grip.
Assistive Technology

Adapted Hunting and Shooting

Designed for individuals with no hand or arm movement. Can be operated completely with your mouth and chin.

Hunting or shooting supports designed for individuals with limited hand and arm movement and strength.
Successful Outcomes for AgrAbility Clients

- Increased ability to perform current or new work tasks
- Decreased potential for acquiring a secondary injury
- Increased independence at home and in the community
AgrAbility Staff & Clients Work Together

- Discuss options
- Set goals
- Develop plans to meet goals
- Implement plans
- Meet goals
- Evaluate outcomes
AgrAbility Local Resources

- Missouri AgrAbility Project → 800-995-8503
  [http://agrability.missouri.edu/](http://agrability.missouri.edu/)
- Local University of Missouri Extension Center
- Local Center for Independent Living
- Local Hospital
- Local MO Vocational Rehabilitation & Rehab Services for Blind
- Local Department of Health and Human Services
- Local CDC Arthritis Program
- Local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Others…
AgrAbility National Resources

- National AgrAbility Project
  www.agrability.org

- Assistive Technology Database
  www.agrability.org/toolbox
“You?”

- Identify and organize resources in your community
- Promote career independence
- Develop recreational, exercise, leisure activities to improve quality of life
- Create an awareness
- Educate others
- Invest and enhance our rural communities
- Network

University of Missouri Extension

NIFA
Questions??

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Program Complaint Information
To file a program complaint you may contact any of the following:

University of Missouri
- MU Extension AA/EEO Office
  109 F. Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211
- MU Human Resources Office
  130 Heinkel Bldg, Columbia, MO 65211

USDA
- Office of Civil Rights, Director Room 326-W, Whitten Building
  14th and Independence Ave., SW
  Washington, DC 20250-9410

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www.agrability.org