

# *Iowa AgrAbility: Innovative solutions for farm families affected by disabilities*

Since 1991, **Iowa AgrAbility** has helped more than 1,000 farm families affected by disabilities remain active in farming.

Ryan Odens is a farmer in northwest Iowa. Despite a spinal cord injury, he was determined to keep farming.

Iowa AgrAbility helped make this dream come true. Modifications to the farm operation and some new equipment purchases allowed Ryan to overcome limitations he has due to his injury.



Ryan Odens uses a lift to get into the combine.

**Disabilities may be due to farm or non-farm injuries or health-related conditions.**

**Examples include amputation, arthritis, stroke or heart attack, hearing or vision loss, spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, or back pain.**

## Iowa AgrAbility Services

### On-Site Assistance

We visit your farm to identify modifications that allow you to live and work more independently. We can:

- ◆ Develop plans for remodeling your home, farm operation, or equipment to make them more accessible
- ◆ Link you with people who design or fabricate devices to accommodate your disability
- ◆ Help you identify possible funding sources to pay the costs of modifying your home or farm

### Universal Design and Home Accessibility

- ◆ Visit the Universal Design Learning Lab at Iowa State University to learn how to make your home accessible and attractive. See gadgets and gizmos that make everyday tasks easier.

### Support from Others

- ◆ Meet farm families with similar disabilities or interests. Share ideas, stories, and support.

### Resources

- ◆ Get help with farm financial analyses, learn about alternative agriculture practices, or find out how your family can cope with changes.
- ◆ Request the latest information. We offer publications, workshops, and educational materials. We can refer you to specialists on farm and family topics. You can also sign up for the AgrAbility newsletter.
- ◆ Obtain the assistive devices you need for a fraction of the purchase price through the Easter Seals E-loan closet.

**Our services are free to all Iowa farm families affected by injuries or health-related disabilities.**

**Iowa AgrAbility** is a joint effort of Iowa State University Extension and the Rural Solutions Program of Easter Seals Iowa. It is partially funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Our Purpose:** To provide assistance and empower persons with disabilities and their families to be successful in agriculture.



**For More Information:**

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**Rural Solutions Program**



of Easter Seals Iowa specializes in vocational training and employment, respite services, assistive technology, and rehabilitation services for farmers. Each year Easter Seals helps more than 5,000 people with disabilities in Iowa achieve greater independence and enhance the quality of life in their communities.

**Iowa State University Extension** builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa. Extension serves Iowa through staff and offices located in every county, field staff operating throughout the state, and staff and faculty on the ISU campus.

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

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...and justice for all

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**A disability does not mean you have to leave the farm!**



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