

Iowa AgrAbility Project

Innovative solutions for providers: Farmers with disabilities can farm!

What is Iowa AgrAbility?

Since 1991, **Iowa AgrAbility** has helped more than 1,000 farm families affected by disabilities. These consumers have varied disabling conditions—physical, cognitive, or health-related.

Iowa AgrAbility is one of 25 projects nationwide funded through the United States Department of Agriculture. In Iowa, the AgrAbility project combines the resources of Iowa State University Extension and the Rural Solutions program of Easter Seals Iowa to provide assistance and empower persons with disabilities and their families to be successful in agriculture.

Iowa AgrAbility has specialists in rural rehabilitation, rehabilitation counseling, and housing accessibility.

Who Is Eligible?

AgrAbility services are **free** to any farm family affected by a disabling injury or health-related condition. Disabilities may be due to farm or non-farm related injuries or health-related conditions.

Direct Services to Families

On-farm assistance: Staff members make on-farm visits to explore specific disability-related needs. We can:

- ◆ Assess homes, worksites, equipment, and agricultural tasks;
- ◆ Suggest modifications to make homes and farms more accessible;
- ◆ Recommend ways to restructure tasks in the home and on the farm;
- ◆ Locate services to meet specific needs & coordinate support.

Support from others: Families get ideas, stories, and support from people with similar disabilities.

Universal design and accessible housing:

Our housing design specialist can work with families to design a modest home makeover, offer resources, or demonstrate accessible room ideas in the hands-on Learning Lab on the Iowa State University campus.

Information for Providers

Finding resources to assist Iowans with disabilities who live and/or work on farms is challenging.

We can help you figure out how farmers can safely be involved in agriculture, offer ideas on designing accessible homes and farms, and provide information and referral services to meet specialized needs.

- ◆ **Identify** farm families who could benefit from AgrAbility services.
- ◆ **Request** a training session for your agency. Learn more about AgrAbility services, home, farm, and equipment modifications, and assistive devices.
- ◆ **Partner** on disability issues that affect farm families across Iowa.
- ◆ **Schedule** universal design displays for a community event. Learn about universal design and accessible housing resources: www.extension.iastate.edu/universaldesign
- ◆ **Sign up** for the Iowa AgrAbility newsletter to keep informed of resources available for farm families.

Visit the Iowa AgrAbility Website:
www.extension.iastate.edu/agrability



Iowa AgrAbility helped Ryan Odens (left center) make equipment modifications, like this lift for the combine, that helped him return to farming after a spinal cord injury.

Farm families can learn how to design their home for comfort, convenience, and accessibility. (at right)



For More Information:

Mary Yearns, Project Coordinator,
 Professor, Extension Housing Specialist
 62 LeBaron Hall
 Iowa State University
 Ames, Iowa 50011-4380
 Telephone: 515-294-8520
 Toll Free: 800-262-3804
 E-mail: yearns@iastate.edu

Tracy Keninger
 Rural Solutions Program Coordinator
 Easter Seals Iowa
 PO Box 4002
 Des Moines, IA 50333
 Telephone: 515-309-2371
 TTY: 515-289-4069
 E-mail: tkeninger@eastersealsia.org

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

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.



This material is based upon work supported by the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under special project number 95-EDFA-1-0200.

...and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and material or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DE 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.