

Iowa AgrAbility: Innovative solutions for farm families affected by disabilities

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.

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

Information for Professionals

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.

For More Information:

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

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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Iowa AgrAbility Project

**Innovative solutions for providers:
Farmers with disabilities can farm!**



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

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