



AGRABILITY CHIT CHAT

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FOCUS ON RESOURCES

CONTENTS

- ◆ RESOURCES YOU CAN USE
- ◆ ACCLAIMED MOVIE IS BREAKING STEREOTYPES
- ◆ ITEMS OF INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

- ◆ *AgrAbility Project Websites*: National and state AgrAbility Project websites contain resources on methods to accommodate disabilities, success stories, and information on AgrAbility efforts across the nation. See: www.agrabilityproject.org OR www.extension.iastate.edu/agrability.
- ◆ *Universal Design & Home Accessibility*: Iowa AgrAbility promotes the idea of designing homes that are better for everyone. Resources include an on-campus learning lab, two large display trailers, a dedicated website loaded with links to universal design resources such as building and remodeling ideas, as well as individual consultation to help families explore simple ways to accommodate their home. Visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/universaldesign. Call Mary Years at (515) 294-8520 if you would like to arrange a tour of the learning lab or to schedule the display trailers at a community event.
- ◆ *Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS)*: IVRS works with and for individuals who have disabilities to help them realize employment, independence, and economic goals. They help determine eligibility for those applying for disability benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs, assist eligible persons to become employed, and promote public interest and policy. To find the regional office nearest you go to: www.dvrs.state.ia.us/counties.html, or call (515) 281-4211.
- ◆ *Iowa COMPASS*: This program provides information to Iowans about potential sources of funding to purchase assistive technology. They also provide referrals to free legal advocacy services for disabled individuals. To learn more: www.medicine.uiowa.edu/iowacompass, or call (800) 779-2001; (877) 686-0032 TTY. The *Used Equipment Referral Services (UERS)* is an online service of Iowa COMPASS that allows people to list assistive technology they wish to sell or purchase. Medical equipment is excluded. To view the current list: www.uiowa.edu/infotech/UERS.
- ◆ *Iowa Able Foundation*: This service helps Iowans with disabilities purchase adaptive devices/equipment and home modifications through flexible term loan programs: www.iowaable.org/index.php, or call (515) 243-2000; (641) 856-3350 TTY.
- ◆ *BenefitsCheckUp* ~ Learn about and enroll in programs that can help cover the costs of prescription drugs, health care, utilities, and other needs. Check if you qualify for the

new Medicare Prescription Drug Program and other federal, state, and private programs that may save you money. Go to: www.benefitscheckup.org.

ACCLAIMED MOVIE IS BREAKING STEREOTYPES

Critics and moviegoers rave about a limited release movie from this summer called "Murderball." The movie features the world-class athletes of the 2004 bronze-medal winning U.S. Paralympics rugby team and their passion for the sport of Quad rugby.

The movie is a documentary of how these athletes found renewed purpose in life through their involvement in this high intensity sport. It focuses on the athletes as real people along with the universal themes of sports rivalry, relationships, the thrill of winning, and the heartbreak of losing. It also incorporates the story of a young man just starting rehabilitation after a motorcycle accident injury.

"Murderball" won the Documentary Audience Award at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, as well as a Special Jury Prize for Editing. It is playing in a limited number of theaters across the U.S., and the DVD is scheduled for release November 29, 2005. (Please Note: This movie is not intended for all audiences. It is rated "R" due to language and some sexual content.)

Mark Zupan, one of the film's stars, was recently a guest speaker at Iowa State University as part of the campus Disability Days. A DVD copy of Mr. Zupan's presentation is available from the Iowa State Lecture Program. If you are interested in hearing his speech, contact the AgrAbility office at (515) 294-8522 or email alundval@iastate.edu.

ITEMS OF INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ *Wood Burning for Home Heating* ~ With the threat of rising prices for home heating costs

this winter, you may wonder about the benefits of using wood burning to heat your home. Be an informed consumer before going out to buy a wood stove and firewood. See: www.woodheat.org.

- ◆ *Winter Home Heating Assistance* ~ The 2005-2006 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their winter heating costs. Assistance is determined by income, number of household members, type of fuel, and type of heating. Contact your local community action agency for details; or visit www.dcaa.iowa.gov/bureau_EA.
- ◆ *Fall Grain Storage Advice* ~ Anticipated high yield in some parts of Iowa means some farmers may have problems finding storage for their crop. The Iowa Grain Quality Initiative at Iowa State has information on safe on-farm grain storage solutions and grain quality issues at www.extension.iastate.edu/grain; see additional risk management tools to help make harvest decisions at www.extension.iastate.edu/agenery.
- ◆ *World Usability Day* ~ November 3, 2005 is World Usability Day. This event promotes easy-to-use technology for everyone. Organized activities are planned in more than 70 cities in 30 countries. Learn more at worldusabilityday.org.
- ◆ *Family Fun Fest: June 24, 2006* ~ The **2006 Family Fun Fest** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 24, 2006**. If you would like to help with planning the event for next summer, or if you have suggestions for activities to include in the day, please contact the AgrAbility office at (515) 294-8522, or email alundval@iastate.edu.

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IOWA AGRABILITY - A joint effort of ISU Extension and the Rural Solutions Program of Easter Seals Iowa. The program can help farm family members with a disability stay in farming.

This newsletter from the Iowa AgrAbility Project will be sent monthly to AgrAbility families and other interested individuals. Please send comments and suggestions to:

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