



# THE BALING WIRE

Summer 2005 Edition

## Tractor Lifts

### Colorado AgrAbility Works!

Promoting  
success in  
agriculture for  
people with  
disabilities

Providing  
"on the farm"  
visits at no  
charge to the  
family

Making assistive  
technology  
recommendations  
to live and  
work more  
productively

Providing  
peer support  
resources

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Edition by Bill Zorack



Accessing a tractor can be difficult for an able bodied person. It can be almost impossible for someone with even a minor disability. Not being able to operate a tractor because of a disability may force drastic changes in an entire farm or ranch operation. Fortunately however, companies have recognized the importance of tractor access for farmers and ranchers with disabilities. The development of tractor lifts provides a way for operators

with disabilities to get back into the tractor cab and ultimately back to working the land.

A tractor lift can be adapted to several types of farm machinery and can make it possible for someone to gain access into their equipment. The most common lift models are platform and person lifts. A platform lift requires a person to stand on a small platform which lifts them until their feet are level with the door of the tractor cab. Then, from the platform, they step into the tractor cab.

For people who are unable to stand, a person lift can transport them up to the cab. Typically, this is accomplished with a seat that is

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Goodbye & Welcome



Sadly we have recently said goodbye to Michelle Zorack who contributed much to AgrAbility for nearly four years. Michelle has made a challenging career change. She is now providing home health care for a metro Denver company. She will be able to take a lot of the skills

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# AgrAbility Baling Wire



## Funding Help

Tractor lifts can be a very important piece of technology that give people with disabilities the ability to remain working on their farm or ranch. The cost, ranging from \$8,000-\$15,000 can be prohibitive. Although Colorado AgrAbility does not directly purchase assistive technology devices such as a tractor lifts, AgrAbility staff have information or strategies that may make purchasing a tractor lift possible. For example:

- People who have farm loans can talk to their lending agency to see if they can roll a tractor lift into the loan. Colorado AgrAbility staff have spoken to many lending institutions that stated they would strongly consider including assistive technology equipment into a farm loan.
- Colorado AgrAbility has worked with local banks across Colorado that have stated they will make loans to individuals for the purchase of assistive technology equipment such as tractor lifts. Often these loans will be made with lower interest rates and/or over longer periods of time so that monthly payments will be kept manageable.
- Individuals can check with their local bank to see if the bank would be willing to make a loan to purchase a device like a tractor lift. For people who have established relationships with local banks, the banks will often be willing to make unique loans.
- People who qualify for services from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and/or are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits may be eligible to receive financial aid to purchase assistive technology items such as tractor lifts that will allow them to remain working on their farm or ranch.



**Tractor Lift**

For more information please contact Colorado AgrAbility at 1-800-335-2598 x224.



# AgrAbility Baling Wire



*(HELLO - GOODBYE Continued from page 1)*

she learned working with Colorado AgrAbility and apply them to her new job. Colorado AgrAbility staff and clients will miss Michelle. Best wishes are sent to her in her new job!

Happily there is a new face at AgrAbility. Bill Tiffany has been with us since the middle of May. He recently graduated with an Occupational Therapy Assistant degree from Pueblo Community College. He also has a degree in Automotive Technology and worked in the automotive repair industry for twelve years. He grew up in Pueblo County east of Pueblo and looks forward to using both his Occupational Therapy skills and his mechanical experience in working with people in agriculture all over Colorado!

*(TRACTOR LIFT Continued from page 1)*

raised and positioned close to the tractor seat. The person then transfers from the lift seat into the tractor seat.

Each of these lift models can either be mounted to a single tractor or free standing. Each attachment style has its own advantages and disadvantages. A lift that is directly mounted to a tractor will allow the user to enter and exit the tractor at any time. However, the lift can only be used to enter and exit the tractor it is mounted to. A

free standing lift is either mounted in the bed of a truck or to a trailer unit that can be towed. They can be used to gain access to any tractor or other piece of machinery. However, since the lift is at one location and is not attached to the tractor, the user can only enter and exit the tractor from the location of the lift.

If you or someone you know would like more information about different models and styles of tractor lifts please contact Colorado AgrAbility at 1-800-335-2598 x224.

	<h2>Resources for Lifts:</h2>	<b>Startracks Custom Lifts</b> 3705 Chimney Hill Dr. Valparaiso, IN 46383 219-464-1126 <a href="http://www.startrackslifts.com">www.startrackslifts.com</a>	<b>SFH Products Inc</b> 1801 E. Medlock Dr Phoenix, AZ 85016 1-888-224-1425 <a href="http://www.lectraaid.com">www.lectraaid.com</a>
	<b>Access Unlimited</b> 570 Hance Rd Binghamton, NY 13903 1-800-849-2143 <a href="http://www.accessunlimited.com">www.accessunlimited.com</a>	<b>Life Essentials</b> 8796 S. US 231 Brookston, IN 47923 (765) 724-6707 <a href="mailto:info@life-essentials.net">info@life-essentials.net</a>	<b>Colorado AgrAbility</b> Easter Seals Colorado 5755 West Alameda Ave Lakewood, CO 80226 1-800-335-2598 ext 224

## EASTER SEALS – COLORADO AGRABILITY PROJECT

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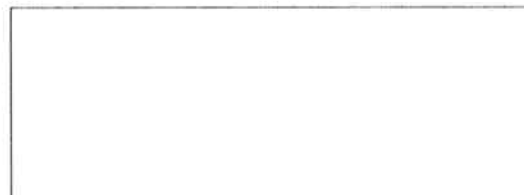
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Colorado AgrAbility is a joint program between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Colorado Easter Seals. The goal of AgrAbility is to maximize independence of farmers, ranchers, and their families who are facing new obstacles due to injury, illness, or normal wear and tear on the body by providing services, information and education.

### Please contact us at:

Colorado AgrAbility	800-335-2598 toll-free
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