



Frequently Asked Questions About AgrAbility

Promoting Independence in Agriculture

What is the Colorado AgrAbility Project?

The Colorado AgrAbility Project, a partnership between Colorado State University Extension and Goodwill Industries Denver, provides assistance, networking information, and educational opportunities to help farm and ranch families affected by disability remain independent and successful.

What assistance can AgrAbility provide?

AgrAbility is a unique project with expertise in finding equipment and/or modifying existing equipment to help farmers and ranchers with a disability continue to do the work they love—farming and ranching. This might be as simple as determining if a tractor company's step kit will work for an older model tractor; or, it could be more involved like identifying a tractor lift to help an individual get into/out of a swather. Often equipment and/or modifications are inexpensive, but occasionally the cost can be prohibitive. If cost becomes an issue, AgrAbility can work with other organizations or programs to help reduce the financial burden on the family.

What support and network information does AgrAbility provide?

AgrAbility provides support to farm and ranch families affected by disability through the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Peer Support program. This program offers networking between other farmers and ranchers facing similar challenges to share ideas and offer support. In addition, AgrAbility has extensive knowledge of other organizations in Colorado to refer families.

What educational opportunities does AgrAbility provide?

Each winter AgrAbility provides 8-9 educational workshops throughout the state to agricultural families and professionals who work with them, to help them better understand the resources available to help farm and ranch family members with a disability remain independent. These workshops also provide an opportunity to inform and coordinate resources between families and professionals.

With whom does AgrAbility work?

Any farm or ranch family member that is affected by disability and strives to remain independent and successful in their role on the farm or ranch is eligible to work with AgrAbility. Example of impairments and disabilities are: difficulty walking, vision loss, hearing loss, back injuries, amputations, chronic pain, spinal cord injuries, head injuries, arthritis, difficulty breathing, etc.

COLORADO AGRABILITY
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Fact Sheet

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Is there a fee for services?

There is no fee to work with the Colorado AgrAbility Project.

Does AgrAbility have funds to purchase equipment?

AgrAbility appreciates the independent and self-reliant culture of farming and ranching. With that in mind the USDA prohibits AgrAbility funds from being used to purchase assistive equipment for individuals. Therefore, Colorado AgrAbility can not use grant funds to purchase equipment. However, AgrAbility can help families utilize other programs or organizations to help reduce the financial burden for the family.

What happens when I contact the program?

The most common way that individuals contact AgrAbility is with a telephone call. During this call, AgrAbility staff will answer any questions the individual has about the program. AgrAbility staff will also explain how AgrAbility may be able to assist them. This may include sending more specific information in the mail or it may be most helpful to have an AgrAbility staff person meet with the individual at their farm or ranch. Whichever steps are taken, an individual can continue or withdraw from involvement with the Colorado AgrAbility Project at any time.

How can I contact AgrAbility?

Dr. Robert Fetsch, Project Director, can be contacted at 970-491-5648 or via email at fetsch@cahs.colostate.edu. You may also contact Jill Sump, Project Manager, 303-385-7636, jsump@goodwilldenver.org or Vince Luke, Case Manager, 303-385-7386, vluke@goodwilldenver.org. Staff are available to answer your questions related to specific difficulties you are experiencing due to disability or health challenges at your home or farm/ranch location.



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