



Fact Sheet

Promoting Independence in Agriculture

On-Site Visits

The Colorado AgrAbility Project provides farm and ranch families affected by disabilities with on-farm technical advice concerning the design, fabrication and use of agricultural and related equipment, machinery and tools. Colorado AgrAbility also assists in the modification of farm worksites, operations and living arrangements to help individuals with disabilities who engage in production agriculture remain successful. One way this is done is through on-site visits.

Overview of On-Site Visits

- Since 1997, Colorado AgrAbility has provided on-site visits and direct service to 128 farmers, ranchers and their families. On average, the project serves 50 to 60 clients a year.
- Colorado AgrAbility works with the client's needs and goals to help the client remain an independent and successful agriculture producer.
- On-site visits help Colorado AgrAbility assess the special technology needs and provide assistance to disabled farmers, ranchers and their families.
- During these visits, Colorado AgrAbility works with the client to assess their disability; evaluate current facilities, practices and equipment; and make recommendations for improvements that may benefit the disabled person.

Process

- On-site visits are uniquely tailored to each client and their family. The process begins with a phone consultation in which the client and a Colorado AgrAbility professional discuss the nature of the disability, agriculture operation and specific job tasks or equipment use that have become difficult.
- When Colorado AgrAbility professionals visit a farm or ranch operation, they first sit down with the client and family and further discuss disability-related issues that have made working the farm or ranch more challenging.
- The next step is a walk-through of the operation, focusing on the issues and challenges that were previously discussed. AgrAbility goes over recommendations for equipment and worksite adaptations with the client, discusses which issues are most important and develops a plan of action detailing how to achieve each of these goals. The on-site visits take between 1 and 2 hours on average.

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- The final step is a follow-up phone call in which recommendations for equipment and worksite adaptations are gone over. Colorado AgrAbility then makes further site visits and recommendations until all goals in the plan of action are achieved.

Eligibility and Costs

- Any farmer, rancher or family member with a disability is eligible for this service no matter how the disability occurred. Any type of physical, cognitive or illness-related disability qualifies, such as amputations, arthritis, back pain, cancer, diabetes, spinal cord injuries and brain injuries.
- The on-site visit is provided at no cost to the client. If technology or facility accommodations are suggested, the cost of those changes will be the responsibility of the client. Colorado AgrAbility can help the client find assistance through community organizations, such as the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

For More Information

- For more information about Colorado AgrAbility and on-site visits, contact Robert Fetsch, Colorado AgrAbility Project Director, at 970.491.5648 or fetsch@cahs.colostate.edu.

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