An 8-State Study of 614 AgrAbility Clients’ Perceptions and Outlook on the Future

Background: In 2003, the National AgrAbility Project conducted the first multi-state survey of clients focusing on demographics, reported capabilities, opinions, perceived impact of assistance, and perceived impact of disability. Of 16 invited projects, the following information represents the results of 8 state projects that have completed the process at this time (CO, MS, IA, MN, WI, NE, UT, and MO). A Dillman-style mail based questionnaire was sent to a total of 1,068 clients in 8 states; 614 were completed and returned for a response rate of 57.5%.

General Demographics:
- Total # respondents: 614
- Male 84.6% Female 15.4%
- Average age: 53 (N = 533)
  Range 7–93; S.D. = 14

Marital Status:
- Single 13.2%
- Married 70.7%
- Divorced 11.8%
- Widowed 4.3%

Working Status:
- Farming (full-time) 42.7%
- Farming (part-time) 27.5%
- Unable to work 19.0%
- Retired 9.0%
- Looking for work 1.3%

Reported Cause of Disability
- Non-Ag. Health Condition 47.7%
- Agricultural Incident 34.5%
- Non-Ag. Incident 17.7%

Most Frequently Reported Disability*
- Back Injury 19.6%
- Other 19.6%
- Spinal Cord Injury 19.3%
- Arthritis 19.1%
- Amputation 13.9%
- Joint Injury 13.1%

Using Simultaneous Multiple Linear Regression we found that a combination of four independent variables makes a significant contribution to predicting the future outlook of AgrAbility clients, $F$ (5, 387) = 34.91, $p < .001$, which is better than any one by itself.

Four predictive independent variables and regression analysis summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am able to manage my chores, machinery, and farm.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My condition or disability impacted my farm’s productivity and financial return.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assistance I received impacted my farm’s productivity and financial return.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have received assistance to make my taxes more accessible.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.04***</td>
</tr>
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The adjusted $R^2$ squared value was .30. This indicates that 30% of the variance in future outlook was explained by the model. Cohen’s (1988) interpretation of this $R^2$ is that it is a large effect—one that is larger than typical.

We also tested the variable “I am able to modify my equipment with the assistance I received” and found that it did not contribute to the prediction of future outlook.