



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brady Haynes

AgrAbility Program Helps Ag Workers with Disabilities

Northeast Colorado agronomist, 30 year old Brady Haynes, had worked hard to overcome the results of a spinal cord stroke that left him with a bilateral inability to move of his lower extremities. Following that injury, he has used a wheel chair for mobility. Now a thriving agronomist, he has about 1500 acres throughout NE Colorado, W Kansas, and SW Nebraska under scouting management. When the challenges of getting from home to the fields he is scouting, and being unable to easily enter them for crop inspection and soil samples became a problem, Brady contacted his local Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. His counselor referred him to the Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP), a service created by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Denver and Colorado State University Extension.

CAP met with Brady in order to assess his physical limitations for self-employment as an agronomist and to ascertain whether any form of assistive technology might help him be more productive, independent, and safe as he moved from field to field. Spending several hours with Brady in person and many more hours on the phone and in emails, CAP was able to make recommendations for assistive equipment that will serve his needs. Although CAP does not have funding to purchase assistive equipment, they were able to discuss with Brady and others resources that might be able to fund the acquisition of the key items one may need for success. Today, Brady is looking forward to expanding the acres under scouting management to about 3,000.

About Colorado AgrAbility Project- Colorado State University Extension and Goodwill Industries of Denver work together on the Colorado AgrAbility Project to provide disability workshops, on-site evaluations, resource information, equipment modification and assistive technology. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture provides funding for the Colorado AgrAbility Project.

About Goodwill Industries of Denver -Goodwill Industries of Denver seeks to reverse the cycle of poverty through career preparation and skills training for at-risk youth, struggling families and individuals with disabilities. Through its thrift retail operations and community programs, Goodwill is ensuring that every individual in our community has the opportunity to live to their

fullest potential and overcome barriers to success and self-sufficiency. Visit www.goodwilldenver.org, to learn more.

Colorado AgrAbility is hosting 8 free workshops across Colorado this winter. The workshop, "AgrAbility, How to Work Well with Agricultural Lenders and Bankers" and "Mental Wellness for Rural America" will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 and includes lunch for those who pre-register.

To pre-register or get more information about the Colorado AgrAbility Project, participants can call or email Candiss Leathers (720-539-4435); cleathers@goodwilldenver.org, or Norm Dalsted (970 222-5657); Norman.Dalsted@ColoState.EDU or the Extension agent listed below for more information.

Remaining workshops:

- Aurora: February 1st, 2017, 25690 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016, with Johnathan, Vrabec. 303-730-1920
- Yuma: February 14th, 2017, Concession Building at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, 410 W. Hoag Ave., Yuma, CO. 853656 , with Dennis Kaan, (970-345-2287, Mobile: 970-520-1826).
- Sterling: February 15, 2017, County Extension Office, 508 South 10th Ave. Sterling, CO. 80751 with Dennis Kaan (Voice: 970-345-2287, Mobile: 970-520-1826)
- Walden: February 21th, 2016, Jackson County Fairgrounds, Wattenberg Center, 686 CR 42 Walden, with Debbie Alpe (970-723-4298).