

## *Press Release*

Western Slope farmer, Ted Dittmer, has been coping with MS for over 30 years. Recently he has needed to use a wheel-chair for his mobility. Unable to stand unassisted and struggling to continue his farm responsibilities Ted re-connected with the Colorado AgrAbility Project. Candy Leathers, the program manager and a Rural Rehabilitation Specialist visited him on his farm.. Thus began a year long journey to find a way to keep him active on his farm. Since his last situational assessment Ted's lower extremities had lost their ability to support him. He was in a wheelchair with no ability to reach objects in his kitchen cabinets. He could no longer stand to repair farm equipment.

At Candy's suggestion, Ted reached out to the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). They made a referral to Candy Leathers for a current Farm/Ranch Situational Assessment. Working with DVR, the updated site assessment, and significant research, the counselor was able to move forward with obtaining a standing chair for Ted. He is not done with his plan. He and DVR still need to address how he tends his chickens and manipulate his irrigations system. He is thankful that CAP and DVR had the faith in him to support his vocational goals. At least now he can reach above the sink for his morning coffee.

## *Winter Workshops 2016-2017*

Below is a list of upcoming workshops that will be presented by Dr. Norman L. Dalsted, CSU Extension and by Candiss Leathers and Dr. James Craig, Goodwill Industries of Denver. "AgrAbility, How to Work Well with Agricultural Lenders and Bankers" and "Mental Wellness for Rural America" will be the topics. The workshops are for Colorado farm and ranch families who are dealing with barriers created by illnesses, conditions, or limitations, and for professionals who work with them. Workshops are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a free box lunch provided for those who pre-register at least one week prior to the workshop. If you want to participate, please 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 no later than one week prior to the workshop.

**Delta:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, County Courthouse, 501Palmer St. Delta, Co. 81416, Rm #234, with Doug Dean,(970-244-1834)

**Aurora:** February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 25690 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016, with Johnathan Vrbeck, (719-661-2286)

**Yuma:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Concession Building at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E 32nd St, Yuma, AZ 85365 , 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:** Feb 21st, 2017, Wattenberg Center, 686 CR 42 Walden, with Debbie Alpe ([970-723-4298](tel:970-723-4298)).

### **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, veterans, 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](http://www.goodwilldenver.org) to learn more