

*A quarterly letter to friends of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program*

## Meet Me at the Fair?

Breaking New Ground is helping make it possible for *everyone* to meet there

The county fair has long been a focal point of rural culture and community. However, community members with disabilities have sometimes been restricted from fully participating in county fair activities. Breaking New Ground and the Indiana State ADA Steering Committee are working to remove barriers between fairgrounds and individuals with disabilities.

### THE PAST

In 1992 BNG completed a survey of 150 farmers with spinal cord injuries. While Extension activities were rated as one of the top community activities in which farmers were involved, they were often rated as "not accessible" or "partially inaccessible".

From 1993-95 nearly 80 counties participated in some type of ADA/accessibility assessment for their 4-H fairgrounds and Extension offices. Since that time great strides have been made, and some fairgrounds have become models of accessibility.

### THE PRESENT

There can still be many barriers on fairgrounds and in Extension programs that prevent children with disabilities from being involved. Many grandparents or parents may not attend county fairs or 4-H events because of physical barriers.

This year BNG staff have already provided assessments, training, or assistance to seven counties on improving their fairground accessibility. With the financial support of



the Indiana State ADA Steering Committee, BNG is available to provide three more assessments.

### OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

In addition to providing presentations and assessments to 4-H boards, Extension staff, 4-H leaders, and folks who can help make your fairground more accessible,

the BNG Resource Center also has several other resources to assist in making 4-H fairgrounds more accessible. These include:

- Cooperative Extension Service and Accessibility Resource Kit, video, brochure and resource guide
- Strategic Plan for Implementing the ADA in the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- 4-H Perfect Fit Resource Package
- Information and resources on accessibility products, ramps, lifts and signage
- Technical advice and assistance by calling 800-825-4264
- A free brochure entitled The ADA - Questions and Answers

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Consider making your fairground more accessible this year by training the leaders and board members who make decisions impacting your fairground. Plan to have a BNG staff member and/or a farmer with a disability attend a meeting this summer.

Call Breaking New Ground at 800-825-4264 and ask for Barry Delks or Ned Stoller.

## AgrAbility in Cyberspace

Attention all web surfers! The *1999 Barn Builders Peer Support Network of Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities and Caregivers*, and the latest *BNG Newsletter* are now available on our web site.

Breaking New Ground is also formulating an E-mail list-serve in order to quickly update friends of

BNG about important information and events. So if you use E-mail, send us a message at [stoller@ecn.purdue.edu](mailto:stoller@ecn.purdue.edu) and let us know you'd like to be on the list.



**LOOK for BNG**  
at the following fairs  
this summer:

CLARK      LAWRENCE  
GREEN      FAYETTE

INDIANA STATE FAIR: AUGUST 11-22

Breaking New Ground Outreach Program  
Purdue University  
1146 ABE Bldg.  
W. Lafayette, IN 47907-1146  
(800)825-4264 (Voice/TDD)

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Purdue University

**BNG Outreach Program:**

**Barry Delks -- BNG Director**

**Ned Stoller -- Rural AT Specialist**

**Paul Jones -- News Note Editor**

## Help Wanted

### Speak out for AgrAbility!

At this point, AgrAbility is not yet in next year's federal budget. While this is not unusual (AgrAbility has always been included as a line item in the past), we don't want to assume that the program will automatically be continued. To speak out for AgrAbility, contact your Senators or Representative at the addresses listed below, tell them how you benefit from AgrAbility, and encourage them to include it in the budget.

For Senators:  
The Honorable (name)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

For Representatives:  
The Honorable (name)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

### "Partners" Needed

COVOH Foundation, Inc. seeks highly motivated men and women to participate in the **Partners in Policymaking** program. **Partners** volunteers will be trained in becoming advocates who can effectively influence change in public policy and service provision in disability-related areas. Partners attend two-day training sessions eight times a year. For more information, contact COVOH at 1-800-262-8630.

## Help Wanted

### Indiana Farmers Need Your Help!

Statistics tell us that hundreds of disabling injuries occur in agriculture every year. All around Indiana, there are farmers and folks living in rural areas who have been injured or are physically affected by a disabling illness. However, some are attempting to continue farming or are experiencing rural life all alone without utilizing the help available. If any of you have neighbors, friends, relatives, or acquaintances who are farming or living in a rural area with a disability, please inform them of BNG and our services. We would love to serve any folks who could learn from us, and **YOU** are our best contacts with farmers who have recently had a disabling accident or injury.

Thanks for your help!

### Hoosiers

Let your assistive technology needs be heard! By completing the ATTAIN Needs Assessment Survey, you can be assured that Assistive Technology Through Action in Indiana (ATTAIN) will work toward finding solutions for your concerns. Please call 1-800-528-8246 or 1-800-812-5899 or visit the ATTAIN web site at:

[www.vinu.edu/attain](http://www.vinu.edu/attain)

This is your chance to be heard!

## BNG Summer Event!!!



Everyone is welcome to join Breaking New Ground and many farmers on Saturday, August 7, 1999 for a picnic and afternoon at the Raccoon Lake State Recreation Area in the Harden Pavilion. We'll be meeting at 11:30 for a potluck lunch, but feel free to come early. Meat and drinks will be provided by BNG so bring your own tableware and a covered dish.

After lunch there will be accessible games (including wheelchair tug-of-war), fishing, swimming and plenty of time to share with other farmers of your experiences and great ideas. Come with your bragging bag full of any new inventions or handy modifications so that others can learn from your ingenuity.

Mark your calendar now and plan to enjoy this relaxing afternoon at the park with BNG and friends!  
**Call 800-825-4264 to let us know you plan to attend.**

