

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

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## Seasons change for BNG Director

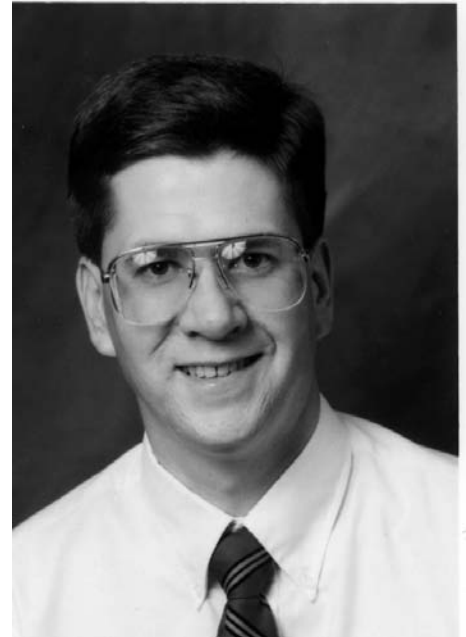
After eight years of service to the rural disability community in Indiana and nationwide, Breaking New Ground Resource Center Director Barry Delks has moved on. Barry is now the Director of Career Services and Alumni Relations at the Purdue School of Animal Sciences.

Throughout his time at BNG, Barry demonstrated an attitude of service and compassion, and has been a great encouragement to both staff and friends of BNG.

During Barry's tenure, BNG developed a large number of resources for

farmers and rural residents with disabilities. One particularly successful set of materials was the resource for caregivers, *To Everything There is a Season*, for which BNG won a national award. He was also awarded the Purdue Extension Specialist Award in 1998. Barry's other achievements included providing resources, training, and invaluable advice to the other state projects in the National AgrAbility Program.

Though Barry cannot be truly replaced, a nationwide search is underway for someone to fill his former position.



Former Breaking New Ground  
Resource Center Director  
Barry Delks

## Consumers benefit from BNG/VR collaboration

Breaking New Ground's ability to influence positive change in the lives of rural residents with disabilities has grown even stronger through an enhanced relationship with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Vocational Rehabilitation is an Indiana Family and Social Services Administration program that provides a variety of services for people with disabilities, including funding to purchase work-related assistive technology, job counseling, and assessments. For the past year and a

half, BNG has been working closely with VR to assist farmers and people living in rural areas.

Farmers such as Don St. Clair and Joe Yates have benefited from the combined services of BNG and VR. Don injured his arm in an auger in November of 1997. VR helped pay for tractor hydraulics modifications to allow Don to control the hydraulic cylinders by flipping a switch instead of pushing a lever. Joe Yates was provided with a John Deere Gator, so he would be able to feed his cattle in the pasture following a severe spinal cord injury. Over 40 rural and farm families have benefited in various ways in their homes and farms through the VR/BNG relationship.

VR does not have an endless pot of money, but when it comes to helping people with physical disabilities who want to work, they are willing to help. If you want to know if you could benefit from Vocational Rehabilitation's services, contact BNG or check your phone directory under government offices for the nearest VR office.



Don St. Clair in his modified tractor

## A new *Toolbox* is on the way

The Breaking New Ground (BNG) Resource Center has been developing resources for farmers and ranchers with physical disabilities for over 20 years. This effort has included the development of two extensive manuals of assistive technology appropriate for agricultural workers. The equipment described is commercially available or has been designed and fabricated by individual craftsmen. Over 2000 copies of these works, *Volumes I & II of Agricultural Tools, Equipment, Machinery, & Buildings for Farmers and Ranchers with Physical Disabilities*, have been distributed nationwide to consumers and rehabilitation professionals.

A third revision of this resource, *The Toolbox*, is now being developed in both print and electronic versions to broaden distribution, increase accessibility, and enhance the quality of the contents. This new resource should be available in the summer of 2000.

# news Note

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Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Purdue University

*Developing and Strengthening  
Rural Community Support for*

## Caregivers

March 28 & 29 at Mitchell  
April 4 & 5 at Kokomo

News Note Editor: Paul Jones

Rural AT Specialist: Ned Stoller

## Could your church be more accessible?

Breaking New Ground has been active in improving the accessibility of rural community organizations, such as libraries, extension offices, and rural businesses. Now it appears, according to our surveys, that many rural churches are in need of improving their accessibility to persons with disabilities.

In response, Breaking New Ground will be conducting educational workshops across Indiana this year that will help train rural churches on the removal of physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers. BNG consultant Ed Bell will be coordinating these events in conjunction with Mark 2 Ministries of Indianapolis.

If you would like to host a Rural Church Accessibility Workshop in your community or would like more information on how your church can become more accessible, please contact Breaking New Ground.

## Last call for caregivers!

If you haven't yet registered for the *Developing and Strengthening Rural Community Support for Caregivers* workshops cosponsored by BNG, you need to act quickly. Only fifty participants will be accepted for each of the two sessions.

The first workshop is scheduled for March 28 & 29 at Spring Mill State Park, and the second is April 4 & 5 at Hampton Inn and HEALTHSOUTH Rehab Hospital in Kokomo. Registration is \$25. **Call BNG SOON!**



## Help BNG reap a Harvest of support

If you purchase Pursuit<sup>®</sup>, Sceptor<sup>®</sup>, Squadron<sup>®</sup>, Prowl<sup>®</sup>, Counter<sup>®</sup>, and other American Cynamid products, you can assist BNG at no added cost to you. Anyone buying these products will receive Harvest Points which can

be translated into monetary support for a number of different organizations. American Cynamid, which coordinates the Harvest Partners<sup>®</sup> Program, has selected The National AgrAbility Project, of which Breaking New Ground is a part, as one of the nonprofit organizations to receive points donated through the 2000 Harvest Partners<sup>®</sup> Program.

For more information on how to donate, call the Harvest Partners<sup>®</sup> Program at (800) 258-2345. Because of the generosity of others, the National AgrAbility Project has already received funds from the 1999 Harvest Partners<sup>®</sup> Program.

## UpLIFTing news from BNG

### Help Needed Identifying Lift Users

The BNG staff needs your help identifying all the farmers using manlifts. We are trying to build a database of all individuals that use a lift to access their tractors or other machinery. If you or someone you know uses a lift, please give your/their name and contact information to BNG. The information gained from these contacts will help BNG better serve current and future lift users.

### Manlift for Sale

Breaking New Ground can be seen demonstrating an agricultural manlift on a tractor at many farm shows and public awareness events around Indiana. Now, LifeEssentials, Inc. of West Lafayette, Indiana is providing BNG with a new lift to demonstrate. For this reason, BNG is selling their current ball-screw lift for \$3500. It would work on most mid-sized tractors, and is fully operational by the



tractor's electrical system. For more information, call Ned Stoller at (800) 825-4264.

**LifeEssentials lift inventor Hubert Von Holton (seated) demonstrating the BNG tractor lift**