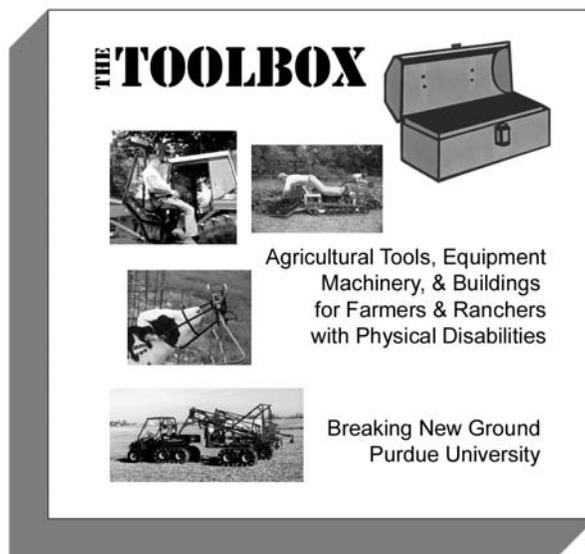


A quarterly letter to friends of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program

THE TOOLBOX agricultural assistive technology manual ready for distribution

Production has been completed on THE TOOLBOX, Breaking New Ground's third edition of *Agricultural Tools, Equipment, Machinery, and Buildings for Farmers and Ranchers with Physical Disabilities*. THE TOOLBOX is a "must have" for farmers with disabilities and rehabilitation professionals dealing with assistive technology in the workplace. Concepts shown in THE TOOLBOX apply to a broad range of agricultural and manual tasks, outdoor mobility needs, and recreational endeavors.



to be understood by those with or without farm experience, and its organizational structure makes it easy to locate items and to cross-reference the various products that serve a given disability type.

So if your old toolbox is rusty and worn, or if you've lost or broken some old tools and just wish you could have a new set, call Breaking New Ground. We can't replace the old toolbox in your shop, but we can provide you

THE TOOLBOX contains more than 500 assistive technology solutions, both farm-built and commercially available, that address the challenges farmers and ranchers with disabilities face every day.

It provides quality pictures, contact information for product suppliers, and clear descriptions for the assistive technologies. THE TOOLBOX is written

with this valuable resource manual for addressing farming with a disability. For more information and to order THE TOOLBOX for yourself or your organization, please contact Ed Kirkpatrick at (800) 825-4264.

BNG introduces new rehabilitation specialist

Breaking New Ground recently welcomed Steve Swain as the new Rural Rehabilitation Specialist for the BNG Outreach Program. Steve brings with him a strong agricultural background.



Rehab Specialist Steve Swain

He grew up on a 220-acre farm in Rush County and graduated from Purdue with a B.S. in Animal Sciences. After managing commercial swine units for nine years, he joined a livestock feed company where he worked in direct sales and sales management for fifteen years. After three years in manufacturing, he rejoined the agricultural community by coming to BNG to help farm families continue to be productive on and off of the farm.

Steve replaces Ned Stoller who served as the BNG Rural Rehabilitation Engineer for over two and one half years. Ned is now managing a dairy operation owned by his wife's family in Lowell, Michigan. He played instrumental roles in numerous BNG projects, including the writing and organization of

THE TOOLBOX and the initiation and development of the Bridging Horizons FFA Contest, efforts that are both highlighted in this newsletter.



Ned Stoller hits the road

Look for BNG at:

Ft. Wayne Farm Show
January 16-18, 2001

Louisville National Farm
Machinery Show
February 14-17

BNG Program Manager: Paul Jones Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

Ed Bell becomes executive director of new CIL

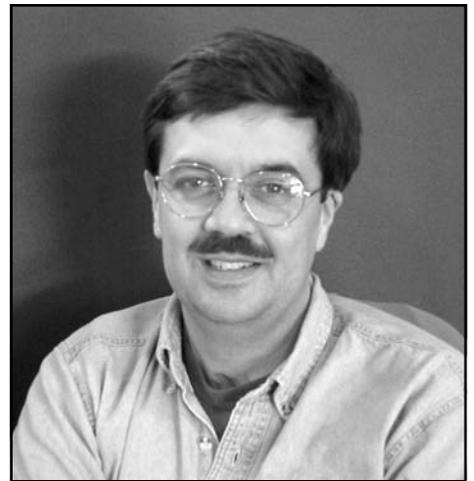
On October 1, longtime BNG/SICIL consultant Ed Bell took on a new challenge as Executive Director of the recently established Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana in Richmond. As Director, Ed will focus on fulfilling the four “core values” of all centers for independent living (CILs): information/referral, advocacy, support, and independent living skills.

Though he readily admits the process of setting up a new CIL is overwhelming at times, Ed has already made strides, including hiring new staff members, and plans to begin providing limited client services by Spring 2001.

Ed’s first contact with BNG was as a client in mid 1980s. He later became one of BNG’s primary consumer consultants, representing the organization at a variety of local, state, and national events. During his tenure with BNG, Ed also became an active member of the Indiana Governor’s Planning Council for People with Disabilities, a position he retains.

Ed credits BNG Project Leader, Bill Field, with preparing him for his new job by, as Ed says “constantly pushing me out of my comfort zone” during his time with BNG.

For more information on the Center,



Former BNG Consultant Ed Bell

contact Ed at (877) 969-9226 (voice), (765) 966-8229 (TTD), or Email at ilcein@ruraltek.com.

BNG launches Bridging Horizons FFA Contest

During the 1999-2000 school year, nine FFA chapters across Indiana joined BNG in the pilot version of a contest to improve access to farms and rural communities for people with disabilities. FFA Chapters were challenged to identify an individual with a disability or an older community member and make that person’s environment more accessible through simple modifications.

The students purchased or acquired donated materials and provided the labor to complete the necessary modifi-

cations. Each chapter took pictures of their project, wrote a description of how they accomplished their goals, and sent the material to BNG.

Three winners were chosen and given monetary awards for their efforts. The North Miami FFA earned the first place \$250 award for building a ramp onto a member’s farmhouse. The \$150 second place prize was awarded to the Tri-County FFA Organization for constructing an accessible concrete walkway around the county fairgrounds’ show arena. The Tippecanoe Valley FFA received the \$100 third place award for building a portable, wheeled chore chair for a farmer with a mobility impairment to use in his shop.

The contest, now known as The Bridging Horizons FFA Contest, will be repeated during the 2000–2001 school year, so FFA chapters statewide will be trying to find farmers or members of the community to serve. If you or someone you know has a simple farm

or community modification that can be made to simplify a farm operation, improve the safety of equipment or machinery, or increase community accessibility, contact your local FFA chapter about the Bridging Horizons Contest, or call Breaking New Ground at (800) 825-4264.

Join BNG for area farm shows and support groups

Make plans now to join Breaking New Ground at the Fort Wayne Farm Show, January 16–18, and the National Farm Equipment Show in Louisville, February 14–17. BNG will be an exhibitor at both events. On the second day of the Ft. Wayne Show, January 17, BNG will sponsor its “Brag & Steal” support group meeting during lunch. Kentucky AgrAbility will also be sponsoring an AgrAbility luncheon during the Louisville Show. Contact Breaking New Ground for more details.



North Miami FFA members work on ramp