

Hot Off the Press: AgrAbility Harvest Newsletter

The National AgrAbility Project at Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Resource Center recently began publishing a new semi-annual newsletter focused on issues of disability in agriculture, titled AgrAbility Harvest.

AgrAbility Harvest features articles concerning assistive technology, State & Regional Project success stories, National Project partner updates, as well as feature stories in each issue.

If you would like to receive the AgrAbility Harvest, please email us at agrability@agrability.org with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. We will add you to our list to receive AgrAbility Harvest in electronic format. If you would also like to receive a printed copy, please indicate so in your email and include your current mailing address. You may also call 800-825-4264 to be added to the mailing list.

For more about AgrAbility, visit www.agrability.org



NEWS Note

Spring 2010



A QUARTERLY LETTER TO FRIENDS OF THE BREAKING NEW GROUND OUTREACH PROGRAM/INDIANA AGRABILITY PROJECT

Questions? Contact Us!

www.breakingnewground.info

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this issue

Carl Jenkins Profile
Just Farm Show'n Off
Meet Our Partner
AgrAbility Harvest

Carl Jenkins - A BNG Voice of Inspiration

Carl Jenkins, from Corydon, IN, has been a BNG client for 10 years, following a devastating house fire in early December 1999.

Carl spent three months recovering from burns over 65% of his body. While in the burn unit, the local extension agent, Jerry Dryden, came by for a visit. Jerry mentioned the Breaking New Ground Resource Center, and encouraged Carl to take advantage of the services available to help him get back to work on the farm.

"I was too proud and reluctant to take advantage of the program at that time," says Carl. It wasn't until the 2000 National FFA Convention that Carl really stopped to listen to what BNG could offer him. After meeting with BNG, Carl began to see the light. "I decided to share with others how I had overcome my

burns and pain, and in doing so, I help others." Carl has been one of BNG's biggest advocates.

Carl shared with us one of his own personal success stories: "I helped a third grade boy get back to walking after burning his leg and foot with gasoline in 2002. He is now in his senior year and brought his girlfriend to this past National FFA Convention and introduced me to her as 'the person who got him out of a wheel chair.' I enjoy helping other people."

When asked about advice for other clients: "Take advantage of the accessible equipment, take pain management to help with pain and not so much medicine. I believe in BNG. Through the resource programs, it can help make life easier and less stressful."

Carl, thank you for all the work you do to support BNG and share our message.

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News Note

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Upcoming Events

Throughout the year, you can find the BNG staff out and about both within the state of Indiana, as well as around the greater mid-west. Come visit us at any one of these upcoming locations!

Spring Fest
April 17-18
Purdue
University

Indiana FFA
Convention
June 14-16
Purdue
University

Come
See Us!

JUST FARM SHOW'N OFF

BNG staff members have been busy this winter with numerous farm shows and industry events where we have been able to meet and greet the Indiana farm community.

January brought in a new year and a handful of shows to keep us hopping! We kicked off the month in northeast corner of our state at the Ft. Wayne Farm show. We set up shop with our partner, The League for the Blind and Disabled, and were able to meet several in the agriculture industry that we could work with, as well as visiting with many of our previous clients!

That same week, we had the opportunity to attend the first ever Indiana Grain, Forage & Livestock Forum in Indianapolis, sponsored by many of the major commodity groups. This was a great event, and a perfect opportunity to share our story and resources with a new crowd of folks in Indiana. We also attended the Indiana Horticulture Congress, offered for fruit/vegetable growers, as well as the Public Policy Forum offered through the Indiana Rural Health Association.

February didn't slow down much as we fought off the snow & Indiana winter weather and headed to



Louisville for the National Farm Machinery Show. We were able to interact and share both the successes of Breaking New Ground as well as the National AgrAbility Project.

We wrapped up the month of February with the Midwest Women in Agriculture conference in Indianapolis. We were able to hand out lots of information for caregivers, as well as receiving several referrals. It was great to interact with a new crop of those involved in agriculture in our state, and see "farm life" from their perspective.

Overall, we have crisscrossed the state to reach our client base, as well as tap into potential new clients. We are trying to spread the good word about Breaking New Ground's Outreach Program and all we can do to help farmers with disabilities.

MEET TRANSITION RESOURCES CORP

In each of the upcoming issues of the News Note, we'd like to highlight each of our three state partners. This issue we will focus on Transition Resources Corporation (TRC).

As a private, not-for-profit organization, TRC has been Indiana's premier provider of employment and training services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers since 1987. As the National Farmworker Jobs Program grantee, their success in assisting farmworkers to become self sufficient is well documented and is critical to the ongoing vitality of the state's agribusiness.

TRC and BNG are currently teaming up to address the needs of seasonal and migrant farm workers throughout our state. Rob Stuthridge, BNG staff member and ergonomics specialist, will address proper manual lifting and handling, among other

topics which are helpful in avoiding injury on the farm.

Recently, TRC regional staff members met with our staff to learn more about how to effectively collaborate with BNG.

TRC positions staff in areas where the highest concentration of farmworkers is found. Staff now maintain a physical presence in three WorkOne Centers in the state: South Bend, Kokomo, and Vincennes. A new Case Manager has recently joined the TRC team and is located in the Indianapolis office.

You can meet the TRC staff at many events, including the IN State Fair and annual Horticulture Conference, as well as at growers conferences throughout the state.

If you would like to learn more about TRC, please visit: www.transitionresources.org.



What's New? - www.arthritis-ag.org

In late 2009, one of our partners, The Arthritis Foundation - Indiana Chapter launched a new website. www.arthritis-ag.org is a valuable resource for finding more information pertaining to arthritis and how it affects those involved in agriculture. You can find health tips as well as tool ideas that can help you manage your pain, should you be suffering from arthritis.

Did you know that arthritis affects nearly one third of all adult farm and ranch operators? Check out www.arthritis-ag.org -- it could change your life!

Toolbox Feature



The battery-powered Neuton Garden Cart will move up to 200 pounds of almost anything!

Featuring weight-forward design for easy dumping, great traction, push-button starting, power-pad operation, two forward speeds and reverse, and rust-proof polyethylene body.

One recharge of the battery (via standard 110-volt outlet) provides a full day of hauling. Available accessories include a leaf catcher, side rails, and vinyl cover.

Visit:

www.neutonpower.com