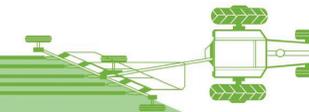


News Note

Breaking New Ground Outreach Program
ABE Building, 225 South University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2093
(800) 825-4264 (Voice/TDD)
www.breakingnewground.info

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

Questions? Contact Us!

www.breakingnewground.info

1-800-825-4264

ABE Bldg.
225 S. University St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907

bng@ecn.purdue.edu

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Project Leader

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Engagement Coordinator

Steve Swain -
Rural Rehab Specialist

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Debbie Curry Watches Her Business Grow

for her Flower Pot Greenhouse and Nursery, which VR eventually funded.

Debbie is starting her third season with the business, and things are going well. She sells her flowers and produce at two local farmers' markets, and having the greenhouse on her property allows Debbie to work as long as she can and rest when she needs to. Debbie said, "Steve was great in helping me start my business and forecast for the future. You have lots of setbacks starting out, but it gets easier."

Debbie is grateful to VR and BNG for helping her get her business off the ground. In addition to providing Debbie with a source of income, she enjoys her business because it "gives [her] something to do to keep from getting depressed from sitting around all of the time." Debbie plans to continue selling her flowers and produce at local farmers' markets and hopes to increase her sales through advertising and positive word-of-mouth from her customers.

Registration is Now Open for the Arthritis, Agriculture, and Rural Life Conference!

Don't forget to register for the Arthritis, Agriculture, and Rural Life Conference May 11-13 at the Purdue University Beck Center! This conference is open to anyone interested in learning about the causes, prevention, and treatment of arthritis in rural populations. Sessions will address topics such as rural women with rheumatoid arthritis, alternative therapies, gardening with arthritis, arthritis prevention in farm youth, health education and arthritis self-help programs, and many others. The conference will also feature a farmer panel discussion, assistive technology demonstrations, and farm worksite workshops where participants will visit dairy, swine, grain storage, machinery and other facilities at the Purdue Animal Sciences Research and Education Center. Onsite farm tours will help rural professionals see firsthand the daily stresses that affect agricultural workers with arthritis.

Register Now!

May 11-13

Arthritis, Agriculture and Rural Life:
State of the Art Research, Practices,
and Applications

The registration fee of \$165 includes meals, reference material and tours. Hotel accommodations will be available at the University Plaza Hotel at \$99/night. Daily transportation will be provided for participants to the conference sites. Information on registration, travel, and lodging can be found at www.arthritis-ag.org or call 800-783-2342. We look forward to seeing you there!

Amputee Walking School

Sponsored by SRT Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Amputee Walking School is free and open to people of all ages with lower extremity amputations. It teaches basic techniques based on the needs of the individual.

Upcoming Classes:

Anderson, IN
April 25

Kokomo, IN
April 26

Fort Wayne, IN
April 27

Defiance, OH
April 28

See www.srt-prosthetics.com for more info

BREAKING NEW GROUND CLIENT SURVEY

At the end of 2010, Breaking New Ground/Indiana AgrAbility consultant Ed Bell conducted a phone survey to measure customer satisfaction. The goal of this survey was to get feedback about ways to improve the program, especially its direct services to farmers with disabilities and their families.

Respondents were asked such things as how they first heard of the program, how they would rate the overall service they have received, how they would rate the News Note, and what further suggestions they had on how the program can continue to improve its service to clients.

The staff selected sixty-five clients who had received a farm visit within the last four years to be contacted for the survey. Forty-six people responded and provided valuable feedback on the services and programs offered by Breaking New Ground.



The responses were favorable. On a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the highest, overall services were rated 4.1, and staff responsiveness/courtesy was rated 4.72. Nearly 90% of respondents indicated that they would recommend BNG/Indiana AgrAbility services to a friend or family member.

Respondents also provided specific comments that were beneficial to program improvement, including suggestions on how to better market the BNG/AgrAbility program to farmers and reach out to more people. Such suggestions are always useful, and the program

staff invites anyone who has ideas, suggestions, or comments to call us at 800-825-4264 or email bng@ecn.purdue.edu.

Breaking New Ground plans to conduct this survey on an annual basis to keep in touch with clients and monitor how the program is serving the needs of agricultural workers with disabilities and their families.

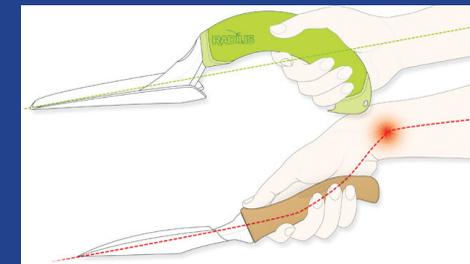
SPRING SAFETY REMINDERS

The long winter has finally come to an end and spring is blooming around Indiana. While everyone looks forward to warmer weather and new growth, spring also brings with it a high incidence of farm-related injuries and fatalities. It is common knowledge that farming is a dangerous occupation, and farmers know the risks that they take on each day, but it is important to be reminded of some common dangers on the farm and how to avoid them. In many instances, injuries can be prevented if the person slows down and remembers the safety precautions to follow.

The most common types of incidents involve tractors, e.g. rollovers, runovers, PTO or machinery entanglements, and occasionally collisions with vehicles on the road. Most open cabs today have ROPS (Roll-Over Protective Structures) installed on

them, which reduces the incidence of fatalities in rollovers. Keeping safety shields in place and turning off machinery before exiting the tractor can help prevent PTO/machinery entanglements and runovers. Lastly, keeping slow moving vehicle signs in good condition and minding traffic flow in your area will help to prevent collisions with vehicles.

Make sure to get adequate rest during the long days of planting season and take the time to slow down and stay safe. Have a good spring!



The Radius Garden tools feature a patented ergonomic grip for anyone who has weak hands or a poor grip. The comfortable curve provides more leverage with less wrist stress. See the "Garden Tools" section of www.radiusgarden.com to find out more.

Spring Toolbox Features



The Garden Kneeler Seat can help reduce stress on one's back and legs while working in a seated position. When flipped over, it becomes a kneeling pad, with its legs serving as handles to help the individual get down and back up. With durable steel construction and locking legs, it will support weight up to 220 pounds. Versions of this product can be found online and at many home improvement and garden stores.