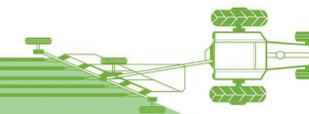


News Note

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Purdue University

Address Service Requested



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

BNG Staff:

Bill Field -
Project Leader

Paul Jones -
Program Manager

Kylie Hendress -
Engagement Coordinator

Steve Swain -
Rural Rehab Specialist

Denise Heath -
Administrative Assistant

**AGRABILITY GAVE
THE KINNEYS HOPE**

Charlie Kinney of Richland, Indiana, had farmed his whole life until 2009 when a bale of wood shavings changed everything. Kinney was taking care of his animals when the bale fell and hit his shoulder, which led to two surgeries and loss of function in his right arm.

Charlie and his wife, Patty, were raising quail and rabbits for zoos across the country at the time of Charlie's accident. They tried to keep the farm going and fulfill their zoo contracts, but it was too much for them to handle, since Charlie was unable to help out as much as before. They decided to sell their quail and rabbits and try to keep the farm going as a grain operation.

They were successful for a couple years, but the strain and stress of running and maintaining the equipment with the loss of function in Charlie's arm, coupled with his diagnosis of Parkinson's were too much. Patty and Charlie were considering renting the farm out when a neighbor told them about AgrAbility. Patty hoped this would provide the help they needed to keep farming and let Charlie get



back to doing what he loves.

Charlie was hesitant to ask for help, but Patty contacted Steve Swain at Indiana AgrAbility anyway knowing that it might be the only way they could continue to farm. According to Patty, after Steve conducted a farm assessment, they felt like there was real hope for them to keep farming.

Charlie told AgrAbility that they "were amazed at all of the little things that could be done to help and support us. We only regret that we didn't know about AgrAbility before and call sooner." Patty also suggests that "if the farmer in your life is reluctant to ask for help like mine was, call AgrAbility and check it out anyway, you both will be glad you did. I can never thank them enough for giving my husband some of his pride back."

**Bridging Horizons Community Service
Contest Entries**

Have you completed your Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest entry yet? If not, there's still time to complete a project and submit a report and photos to Indiana AgrAbility. The Bridging Horizons contest, sponsored by Indiana AgrAbility and DuPont Pioneer, is open to any community service organization in Indiana, including FFA chapters, 4-H clubs, Jr. Leaders, Girl/Boy Scouts, or church groups.

Each entry should consist of a low-cost project completed in the community that helps enhance independence for a person with a disability. Past projects have included building a ramp into a building or house, improving accessibility of the local fairgrounds, and modifying farm equipment to make it more accessible.



Bridging Horizons applications should be sent to Indiana AgrAbility by June 1, 2014. To download a contest brochure or get more project ideas, visit www.breakingnewground.info/horizons. If you have any questions about the contest, contact Kylie Hendress at 800-825-4264 or khendres@purdue.edu.

Indiana
Rural Health
Association
Annual
Conference
June 10-11
Indianapolis, IN

Purdue Home
and Family
Conference
June 10-12
West Lafayette,
IN

Indiana
FFA State
Convention
June 16-19
West Lafayette,
IN

Indiana State
Fair
Aug 1-17
Indianapolis, IN

NEW SUPPORT FOR FARMER VETERANS

Several new initiatives on the federal level are designed to support veterans interested in pursuing agricultural occupations.

The recently passed Farm Bill (the Agriculture Act of 2014) includes new provisions designed to empower veterans in agriculture. For the first time, the Farm Bill defines a "veteran farmer or rancher," recognizes them as a distinct class, and includes them for services under the Outreach and Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. It also gives special consideration to veterans under the Conservation Reserve Program's Transition Incentive Program, the USDA Operating Loan Program, and Value-Added Producer Grants.

The USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) provides grants to organizations that assist beginning farmers through various education and outreach activities. The new Farm Bill adds "agricultural rehabilitation and vocational training for veterans" as a service included in BFRDP funding, and it earmarks 5% of total funding for assisting veterans who are farmers or ranchers. It also encourages collaboration with AgrAbility in BFRDP activities.

Additionally, USDA has launched the Returning Veterans to Agriculture Project. Started as a pilot effort in Indiana but expanding to national scale, the project's main objective is to "Create a USDA roadmap with information about USDA

and other programs available to veterans that want to return to rural communities, farming and ranching, or agricultural work."

The information hub for the project is the www.rv2a.org web portal, which contains information and links related to such areas as careers in agriculture, training opportunities, job postings, and organizations like AgrAbility, Farmer Veteran Coalition, and AbilityOne, the single largest employer of people that are blind or have significant disabilities.

It is critical that those transitioning from active duty to civilian life be aware of their career options. Therefore, USDA has collaborated with the Veterans Administration and Department of Labor to include information about agricultural careers in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP).

America's veterans have sacrificed to protect our lives and liberties. These new initiatives are a significant step in allowing veterans to also help provide our food and fiber.



UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS

Arthritis Foundation Project Coordinator, Amber Wolfe, is wrapping up a busy spring. She attended the Midwest Women in Agriculture conference in Indiana, hosted workshops in Ohio and Pennsylvania for AgrAbility and Arthritis Foundation staff, and attended the AgrAbility National Training Workshop in Kentucky.

Summer brings many community educational events. In May, Amber will represent Indiana AgrAbility at the Walk to Cure Arthritis.

Amber will have an exhibit at the Indiana Rural Health Association's annual conference in June and will be exhibiting and presenting on the topic of arthritis and gardening at the Purdue Home and Family Conference.

July starts county fair season, followed by the Indiana State Fair. Various other garden club, Farm Bureau, and community health organization meetings fill the calendar, providing multiple opportunities to talk about arthritis in rural America.

Linda Tarr of Hoosier Uplands is finding more ways to raise AgrAbility awareness in Southern Indiana.

She has had booths at several events, including the annual Spring Tonic for the Orange County Master Gardeners, the Orange County Cattlemen annual meeting, several county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) annual meetings, Indiana Farm Bureau Spring Conference, and the Indiana SWCD conference.

She has also worked to raise awareness for March Disability Awareness month through newspaper PSAs, senior citizen publications, and staff training. Tarr has also met with several groups to promote the Bridging Horizons contest.

Linda has many activities coming up this spring, including lumber workshops in Jasper and North Vernon, health fairs, and a disability learning series session on vision. Make sure to stop by her booth and visit about AgrAbility.



The Non-Electric Auto-Fill Livestock Waterer provides fresh water all the time because it constantly drains and fills so there is no standing water to collect debris, freeze, or get hot in the summer. The tank fills each time the animal nudges the drinking pad and then drains back out when they stop touching it. The water line is installed below the frost line to keep it from freezing and the waterers are available in insulated or non-insulated models. They are available in sizes for horses, cattle, and sheep or goats.

The Bump 'N' Drive Gate Opener is engineered to fit almost any gate and works by mechanical and gravitational means. No electricity is needed to operate the opener. The system comes as a kit the user can install and comes with bumper arms, post and gate hardware, instructions, and a user DVD. To open the gate, all the farmer has to do is push against the PVC-sleeved bumper arm on the gate and continue to push as the vehicle rolls through; then the gate will automatically close.



Visit:

www.agrability.org/toolbox