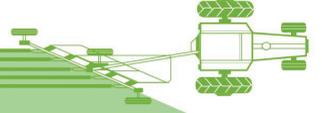


News Note

Breaking New Ground Outreach Program
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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

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**Rich Avey:
Doing What He Was Born To Do**

“Farming is something you are born with, not something you get.” This quote by Rich Avey of Pennville, Indiana sums up how many farmers feel. For most, farming is not just a career choice: it is in your blood. This holds true with Rich

Rich was not going to let this accident take away what he was born to do, though. He continued farming with his father and now farms on his own with a little help from his two daughters, who are FFA members at Jay County High



School. He raises corn, soybeans, and a few beef calves.

To ensure that he was able to continue doing his own work on the farm, Rich modified his International 826 tractor with a lift and hand controls. He then replaced his tractor seat with

However, eighteen years ago, Avey was afraid he was going to have to give up on his dream after a diving accident left him paralyzed. Rich was swimming in the pool on his farm when he dove in and hit the water at the wrong angle, causing him to break his neck and paralyzing him from the neck down.

the seat off of his first power wheelchair to make a smoother ride. These modifications and others made in the years since his accident have allowed him to continue farming and do what he loves.

**Scholarships Available for the 2011
AgrAbility National Training Workshop**

Would you like to join us as we celebrate 20 years of AgrAbility at the 2011 AgrAbility National Training Workshop (NTW)? This year’s NTW will be held in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana at the Hilton Hotel and Suites. Last year we had a record number of farmers in attendance and we are hoping to continue to increase farmer participation. We have scholarships available for farmers and their caregivers that pay for conference registration, hotel room fees, and transportation costs.

We will be offering a “Farmer/Rancher” track one day during the conference, which will address concerns specific to farmers/ranchers, such as how to write a business plan; government programs through FSA, NRCS, etc; niche markets/farm diversification; and an assistive technology “Show and Tell” session. Additionally, scholarship recipients are welcome to attend any other breakout sessions that are of interest, go on agricultural tours, and meet AgrAbility staff and clients from around the United States.

If you are interested in learning about the AgrAbility National Training Workshop or would like to apply for a scholarship to attend the 2011 NTW, please contact Kylie Hendress at khendres@purdue.edu. You may also visit the conference website at <http://workshop.agrability.org/2011> for more details.



Photo provided by the Indianapolis Convention Visitors Association; visitIndy.com



GoShichi LLC (pronounced Go Seat-chi) of Fort Wayne, IN offers wheelchair conversions for GMC Sierra 1500 or 2500 series pickups and Chevrolet Silverado 1500 or 2500 series pickup trucks. The model can be 2- or 4-wheel drive, but must be an extended or crew cab to allow enough room to put the lift in. This conversion will fit most wheelchairs, and adaptations can be made for many non-standard chairs. The lift sets the wheelchair and user behind the steering wheel, similar to the common mini-van conversion but with a heavy duty package for the farmer who does not want to forgo his pickup.

BRIDGING HORIZONS CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the Jay County High School FFA for taking first prize in the Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest for the third year in a row! Bridging Horizons challenges groups to complete low cost projects in their communities that enhance the independence of people with disabilities.

When the Jay County FFA became aware of a need in a chapter member's family, they knew they wanted to help out. Audrey Avey's father, Rich (featured on page 1), sustained a spinal cord injury eighteen years ago and is a wheelchair user. The entrance to his shop, which houses his farming equipment.

It is in a low-lying area that puddles up and gets very muddy after each rain, making it difficult for Rich to enter and exit. The FFA decided to make the shop

more accessible for him by pouring a concrete slab at the entrance of his barn. They prepared the area, built a frame, poured the concrete with a little slope to make it easier for Rich to wheel in and out, and texturized the surface for slip resistance. This has removed the limitations that the weather previously imposed on Rich.

We would also like to congratulate the Hagerstown FFA for winning second place in the Bridging Horizons Contest this year. The Hagerstown FFA assisted an elderly woman by doing yard work and performing maintenance and upkeep on her car.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2011 Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest! We look forward to next year's entries and hearing about all of the people who will be helped by this project.



Photo provided by The Commercial Review, Portland, IN

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Earlier this year, the National AgrAbility Project sponsored a webinar focusing on emergency preparedness for farmers, ranchers, and other rural residents with disabilities. This proved to be a topic of great interest, with over 300 people registering for the event, which is approximately three times the usual response.

This is also a timely topic to discuss due to the extreme weather much of the United States has experienced this year. According to the National Weather Service, Indiana had 58 confirmed tornados this spring, and forecasters are predicting a "higher-than-average" risk of severe weather throughout the summer months.

Being prepared for tornados, power outages, fires, floods, etc. is especially important for people with disabilities due to the additional challenges they may face. For example, how do you get to a storm cellar if a tornado is coming and you are in a wheelchair? How do you power your respirator if the electricity goes out? If you have a loved one with autism, will he/she understand what is happening and know what to do?

These questions and many others are important to consider when developing a plan for emergencies.

There are many local organizations, including county Extension educators, the Emergency Management director, the fire department, and the Red Cross that can help you put together a plan that will work for you and your family. Additionally, you may view the webinar recording, "Emergency Preparedness for Rural Residents with Disabilities" at www.agrability.org by clicking "Online Training" and "Archived Webinars." You can also contact Breaking New Ground at 800-825-4264 or bng@ecn.purdue.edu for more information.



www.goshichi.com

Out & About with BNG

Upcoming Events

Indiana State Fair
Aug 5-21
Indianapolis, IN

Farm Progress Show
Aug 30-Sept 1
Decatur, IL

Ohio Farm Science Review
Sept 20-22
London, OH

National FFA Convention
Oct 19-22
Indianapolis, IN