

**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](http://www.breakingnewground.info)

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**ASPIRE FARM INSPIRES**

When Barbara Scott launched the Harvestland Farm near Anderson five years ago, her goal was twofold: to provide healthy food to her community and to increase the employment options for people with disabilities. As executive vice president and COO of Aspire Indiana, a mental health center serving approximately 400 people in central Indiana, she was acutely aware of the struggle that people with emotional challenges can have in gaining and maintaining jobs.

Today, Aspire's Harvestland Farm employs an average of 12 people with disabilities, each working about 20 hours per week cultivating, planting, weeding, and harvesting. In addition to being a therapy tool, the farm is an economic enterprise as well. Farm manager David Robb and foreman Joseph Monroe market products through an on-farm store, farmers' markets, direct sales to restaurants, and community supported agriculture (CSA) subscriptions. Currently, more than 100 CSA subscribers receive weekly baskets of fresh produce throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Revenues from total farm sales support approximately 75% of the farm's operating costs.



Foreman Joseph Monroe

Situated on 14 acres, Aspire farmers produce a diversified crop of more than 70 naturally-grown vegetables, fruits, and flowers. With multiple greenhouses, they are able to raise hearty-weather vegetables all winter, thus providing year-round employment for many of their workers.

Robb and Monroe indicated that their workers are generally reliable, enthusiastic, and hard working. However, Aspire clients are sometimes cyclical in their emotions, so the two supervisors must be flexible and understanding if workers need extra time off.

Visit [www.yourmarketgarden.org](http://www.yourmarketgarden.org) for more information about Harvestland Farm. They are also still accepting CSA subscriptions for summer/fall.

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

**New Indiana AgrAbility Website!**

The Indiana AgrAbility website ([www.breakingnewground.info](http://www.breakingnewground.info)) has a fresh new look. On the updated website, you can learn more about AgrAbility and its partners and stay up to date on news and events. Additionally, a section has been added to the website where you can find information on a number of topics, including disability and agriculture, assistive technology, arthritis, and mental/behavioral health issues. AgrAbility publications are also posted on this page, including the Indiana Directory of Disability Resources, the Bridging Horizons Contest brochure, and past issues of the News Note.

One of the goals of the new website is to allow for easy accessibility and navigation in addition to providing a more updated and eye-appealing site. The Indiana AgrAbility team welcomes your feedback and comments on the new website so that it may continue to evolve as a user-friendly, informative website. Feel free to use the Contact Us page to provide feedback.



## BRIDGING HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTEST WINNERS

This year's Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest participants undertook some big projects in their communities. From building sidewalks and ramps for public buildings to helping plant gardens and making raised garden beds, each of the projects made a substantial impact on its community.

This year, the first place prize went to the Warrick County Extension Homemakers in Boonville. The Homemakers recognized a need to replace an old ramp and put in a sidewalk for a community building at their county fairgrounds. Completing this project will allow more fair-goers to view the projects on display inside the building during the county fair in addition to allowing easier access for meetings and gatherings that are held there year-round.

Second place was awarded to the Franklin FFA Chapter that addressed a need of a current chapter member's mother who underwent knee surgery in 2011. She was having difficulty maneuvering around the



farm, especially getting out to the barn to check on her daughter's animals and watch her work with them. To help her get around, the FFA members installed a sidewalk around the barns. Additionally, they put in a concrete pad and built a bench to set on it so she can watch her daughter work with her animals.

Southmont FFA in Crawfordsville was awarded third place for their entry designed to help individuals who have mental and physical disabilities. They worked with a local center to prepare gardens that the center's clients can plant, tend, and harvest. Chapter members tilled the soil in the garden beds and also cleaned out and added new soil to the raised garden beds. They then worked with the clients to plant the vegetables they donated from their FFA greenhouses.

Honorable mentions in this year's contest include Hagerstown FFA, Liberty FFA, and Paoli FFA. The Hagerstown members repainted the blue lines on their school's accessible parking spaces and installed new

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accessible parking signs to make the spots easier to see after noting that during many school events, the spaces were mistakenly taken by people who did not require an accessible space.

The Union County High School community service coordinator contacted Liberty FFA to ask them to assist a community member who has a



vision impairment. She needed her sidewalk redone as it had become a hazard for her to try to walk across the uneven pavers. In addition to redoing her sidewalk, the FFA members also did some landscaping projects around her home.

Paoli FFA was contacted by their county Extension Educator about

building some picnic tables for the Orange County Fairgrounds. The members saw this as a chance to help improve their fairgrounds and also to make them more accessible. They decided that in addition

to building the six picnic tables requested, they would build two tables that are accessible to people in wheelchairs.

Thank you to all of the groups who submitted entries for the Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest. It was a great success. The staff at Breaking New Ground is looking forward to next year's entries and seeing all of the wonderful ways that service groups are enhancing their communities through these projects.

AgrAbility Engagement Coordinator, Kylie Hendress, and her husband Nick of Reynolds, IN welcomed the birth of their first child, Kenzie Raelynn on March 21, 2012. Kenzie weighed in at 6 pounds 5 ounces and measured 19.75 inches. Proud grandparents are Mark and Dena Hosier of Alexandria, IN, Keenan and LouAnn Tiede of Monon, IN, and Denny and Tammy Hendress of Brookston, IN. Congratulations to the Hendress family!



If you look forward to spending some time fishing this summer but have trouble casting and reeling in your line, the Elec-Tra-Mate Reel may help you. This electric reel is powerful enough to bring in a fish on its own by simply pressing a button on the reel. There is also an optional remote that can be mounted on the pole or anywhere on a wheelchair for easy access. This reel proves helpful to anyone with lessened arm strength or an amputation.

Visit:

[www.agrability.org/toolbox](http://www.agrability.org/toolbox)