

A quarterly letter to friends of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program

BNG is granted continued funding; sets new goals

The Indiana AgrAbility Project, which consists of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program and its nonprofit partners, recently learned that the program will continue to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for another four years. More than twenty states submitted proposals for a limited number of grants in the competitive funding process. USDA grants have been the main funding source for Breaking New Ground since the AgrAbility Program began in 1991. Recent Indiana state budget cuts should not have a major impact on the Program in the foreseeable future.

BNG will partner with three other nonprofit, disability services organizations

during the upcoming funding cycle. In addition to longtime partners SICIL (Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living) and the Arthritis Foundation—Indiana Chapter, The Independent Center of Richmond will join the Indiana AgrAbility team.

The Project will attempt to move previously initiated projects to the next level, such as contracted fee-for-service relationships with Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation, the FFA Bridging Horizons Program, targeted culturally sensitive services to the Amish community, and the Project's Web-based resources. In addition, the plan of work includes



several exploratory or innovative activities such as the establishment of a free call-in text reader service for blind or visually impaired persons seeking agricultural-based information, targeted support services for farmers and agricultural workers with upper limb impairments, and outreach to the rapidly growing Latino/Hispanic population working in large-scale dairy, hog, and poultry production operations within the state.

Bill Field receives Focus Award

Professor Bill Field, project leader for Indiana AgrAbility, recently received the Focus Award from the Purdue Office of the Vice President for Human Relations. Focus Awards are given annually to a student, a faculty member, and a staff member affiliated



Professor Bill Field, third from left, with other Focus Award winners

with Purdue who have advanced the university's commitment to improving disability accessibility and diversity.

Dr. Field was honored for his work with Breaking New Ground, which he began in 1979, and THE CHAPS therapeutic horseback-riding program, which started in 1993. During his acceptance remarks, he emphasized that it is not enough to provide the physical modifications necessary for accommodating disabilities—attitudinal changes are

equally important for achieving true accessibility.

Other Focus Award winners were Adam Rodenbeck, a freshman at Purdue who is blind, and Betty Nelson, former Dean of Students, who began coordinating services for students with disabilities in 1976. Also honored was the EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service) Program, which began at Purdue and has since spread to other campuses across the country.

BNG staff member reaches milestone

If you've ever purchased materials from the Breaking New Ground Resource Center, it's likely that Ed Kirkpatrick filled and shipped your order. He has also served as one of the editors for the Breaking New Ground Newsletter and many other BNG publications. Ed, who has been working with BNG for 11 years, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Prior to joining the BNG staff, Ed served Purdue's Agricultural Communications Service as an editor for 19 years. BNG looks forward to Ed's continued, valuable assistance in the future.



BNG's Ed Kirkpatrick

BNG Project Leader: Bill Field

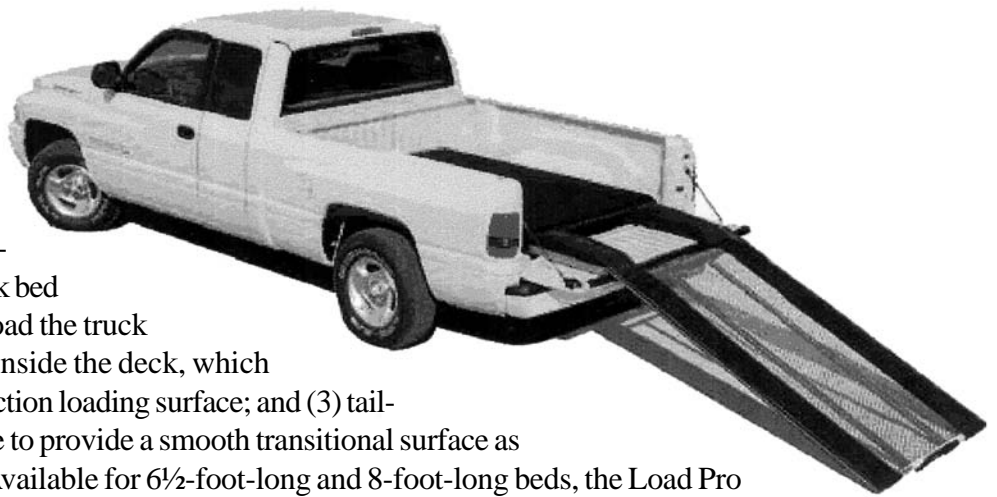
Program Manager: Paul Jones

Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

Load Pro Offers Access Option for Pickup Beds

The **Load Pro Pickup Truck Ramp** offers a safer, easier way to load pickup trucks, and may be especially helpful to individuals with strength or mobility impairments.

The Load Pro consists of (1) a cargo deck with a tough, bed liner-like top, which covers the entire truck bed and is strong enough to carry any load the truck can; (2) a loading platform stored inside the deck, which pulls out to provide a wide, high-traction loading surface; and (3) tailgate inserts, which fit on the tailgate to provide a smooth transitional surface as the ramp is loaded and unloaded. Available for 6½-foot-long and 8-foot-long beds, the Load Pro fits all GM, Dodge, and Ford full-size light-duty pickups, including step-side models. And once initially installed, it can be removed or reinstalled in minutes.



The **Load Pro** is produced in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan but distributed regionally by Decker and Company of Lansing, Michigan (517-321-7231). The 6½-foot-long model costs \$699, while the 8-foot version is \$799. For more information about the Load Pro, call 877-563-3776 or see www.loadpro.ca.

Study seeks input from Parents with Disabilities



Through the Looking Glass is a non-profit center that focuses on research, training and services for families in which a parent, child, or grandparent has a disability. The organization's resource center, called the National Resource Center on Families and Adults with Disabilities, is conducting a nationwide project to learn more about families in which a parent with a disability is raising a teen (11-17 years old).

To learn more or to complete a survey, call Nancy Freed at 800-644-2666, TTY 800-804-1616; request a survey by e-mail at tlg@lookingglass.org; or visit the organization's Web site at www.lookingglass.org.

New Educational Web Resource Available on Spinal Cord Injury

The Spinal Cord Injury Information Network at the University of Alabama Rehabilitation Research and Training Center has developed a free web-based SCI Health Education MultiMedia Series. This resource consists of PowerPoint presentations concerning:

- Functional Goals Following Spinal Cord Injuries
- Prevention of Pressure Sores through Skin Care
- Prevention and Treatment of Urinary Tract Infection
- Understanding and Managing

Respiratory Complication after SCI

- Challenges of Spastic Hypertonia following SCI

The presentations include voice-over narration (which can only be heard when downloaded and viewed in PowerPoint's slide show mode) and can be modified for professional use. To access this series and other important information about spinal cord injury, go to www.breakingnewground.info, follow the link to the Breaking New Ground Resource Center, and click on Web-Based Resources.

New *Barn Builders*, *IDDR* coming

The 2002 editions of two popular BNG Resource Center publications are heading to the printer soon. The *Barn Builders* Peer Support Directory lists farmers, ranchers and caregivers from around the nation who are willing to assist others. The *Indiana Directory of Disability Resources* contains agency descriptions and contact information for a wide variety of disability agencies. If you're interested in pre-ordering either one, call BNG at 800-825-4264.