



Meet Nellie Bell - BNG's Voice to FFA members

Nellie Bell, daughter of BNG client and consultant Ed Bell, is doing her part to share the word about Breaking New Ground to those youth who share her passion for agriculture.

This fall, Nellie began giving presentations to area high school agriculture departments and FFA Chapters. Nellie spends about 20 minutes with each group, doing hands-on demonstrations and talking about disability in agriculture. She wraps up by discussing how students can help make a difference in their local community by making modifications to fairgrounds, supermarkets or local community buildings to increase accessibility, through the BNG Bridging Horizons Contest.

She feels that sharing the program will help educate high school students about the good they can do in their own communities. "It is a wonderful thing to see FFA members get excited about helping and serving others!"

Nellie hopes to begin statewide travel soon! If you would like Nellie to come to your area, contact her at nellienbell@yahoo.com.

"My hope is that I can encourage those I meet to use the power of influence in a positive way - to get involved and help change someones life!" - Nellie Bell
Hagerstown FFA



Questions? Contact Us!

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this issue

National AgrAbility Project

NTW 2009

BNG Staff Updates

BNG & Indiana FFA

What happened to the News Note? By Paul Jones

It's been more than a year since you received a News Note, but that doesn't mean that we at Breaking New Ground haven't been busy.

In the spring of 2008, BNG joined with Goodwill Industries International and The Arthritis Foundation Indiana Chapter to apply for the National AgrAbility Project grant, which BNG housed during the 1990s. In July of 2008, not long after we sent our last News Note, BNG was informed that we had been awarded the National AgrAbility Project.

To make things even busier, BNG also received a grant in the fall of 2008 from NEC Foundation of America. That funding paid for the development of an Assistive Technology for Rural Youth curriculum, which included an updated Toolbox CD, three lesson plans, accompanying PowerPoint presentations, and a

classroom poster. The curriculum package was sent to all 7400 FFA chapters in the U.S. this past October.

It goes without saying that during the past year we've been scrambling to get our new projects off the ground while still functioning as the Indiana AgrAbility Project. We've added some new faces to our staff, as you'll see in the photo above, which includes both our state and national AgrAbility staff members. Our newest staff member, Kim Stockment, is now responsible for the News Note, and you can read more about her in this publication.

You'll also notice that the News Note has a new look. We hope you like it, and we hope you'll forgive us for not keeping closer contact during this busy time of transition.

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News Note

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Upcoming Events

Throughout the year, you can find the BNG staff out and about both within the state of Indiana, as well as around the greater mid-west. Come visit us at any one of these upcoming locations!

Ft. Wayne Farm Show
Jan. 12-14
Ft. Wayne, IN
Coliseum

National Farm Machinery Show
February 10-13
Louisville, KY
Kentucky Exposition Center

Come See Us!

NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP 2009

The 2009 AgrAbility National Training Workshop (NTW) was held October 5-8, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hosted by the National AgrAbility Project and Michigan AgrAbility.

Over 130 participants registered, and we had 10 farmers from around the US who attended on travel scholarships provided by the NTW and Cenex Harvest States Foundation. All Purdue BNG staff, as well as two Indiana consultants, attended the training.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring State and Regional AgrAbility Project staff members together to interact, trade experiences and share what AgrAbility is doing in other states. In addition, there was the opportunity to visit with vendors throughout the four-day workshop.

The program kicked off on Monday evening with a welcome reception and trade show featuring displays from nearly all 22 state programs, as well as a few additional partner organizations.

Tuesday and Wednesday were jam-packed with general sessions and breakout sessions, ranging from marketing AgrAbility to mental health issues, and from effective evaluation tools to assistive technologies available to our clients.



Tuesday evening, attendees enjoyed a dinner banquet with a keynote address by Jim Gibbons, the CEO of Goodwill Industries, International. To wrap up the evening, there was a live auction featuring a variety of items. Nearly \$2500 was raised, and proceeds will benefit the Farmer Scholarship Fund for 2010.

The NTW finished up on Thursday with tours to Goodwill of Grand Rapids, Mary Freebed Rehabilitation Clinic and the Dave Munjoy Farm, a local client who raises blueberries and has adapted his operation to accommodate his disabilities.

Next year's conference will be held in Charleston, West Virginia, October 11-14, 2010. Contact BNG if you are interested in applying for a farmer scholarship. We would love to have you join us!

BREAKING NEW GROUND STAFF UPDATES

Hello! It's nice to meet all of you! I'm Kim Stockment, the newest member to join the BNG Staff.

I am a 2005 Purdue grad with a degree in Agriculture Communications.

I joined the team in late July, having most recently been a Conference Coordinator for Purdue. In my time there I managed 75-80 programs per year, including the 2008 AgrAbility National Training Workshop.

I have a strong background in agriculture, 4-H, and FFA, having served as a State FFA Officer.

Here at BNG, I will be focusing on marketing efforts, publications, and newsletters, such as this one. I will also work with our partner organizations, and attend public awareness events. I hope to get out in the field and begin to work with some of our



clients, as they are the heart of what we do.

Three other important individuals to note are our state partners. Through their organizations we can better reach and serve our clientele all across the state. They are:

- Amber Wolfe, Arthritis Foundation-Indiana Chapter
- Rusty Shade, Transition Resources Corporation
- Mike Hines, League for the Blind and Disabled,

These folks assist with different events across the state, as well as help with outreach and resources in their specialty areas.

Check out our BNG contact information on the front side of this newsletter for our complete staff list and office information.

I look forward to working with and meeting many of you!

Breaking New Ground Scholarship

Have you ever considered making a contribution to support Breaking New Ground; giving back what's been given to you? Would you like to help BNG support a Purdue College of Agriculture student affected by a disability? Perhaps the BNG Scholarship Fund is the perfect fit for your support.

For more information contact Kim Stockment at kstockme@purdue.edu. Now's your chance to make a difference!



The Backsaver Portable Hydraulic Lift Table is useful for any job that requires lifting, positioning, assembly, stacking/unstacking, transporting, or an adjustable-height work surface. Its 24-inch by 40-inch platform can be raised from 10½ inches to a height of 36½ in 13 seconds by a 12-volt battery-powered motor utilizing low-pressure hydraulics. The device weighs 325 pounds and can lift a 1,100-pound load.

See The Toolbox for more information!