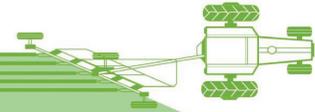


News Note

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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Project Leader

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Engagement Coordinator

Steve Swain -
Rural Rehab Specialist

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Project Engineer

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**Hosier Overcomes
Obstacles and
Expands Farm**

In March 2006, Mark Hosier of Alexandria, IN was feeding cattle when a 2000-pound round bale of hay fell on him from the forks on his loader tractor. The bale temporarily pinned him against the steering wheel of the tractor before rolling off, breaking his back and leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Before his accident, Mark ran a beef cow-calf operation, raised and sold show pigs, and grew corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. After he was released from the hospital, he decided to sell the cattle and focus on adapting his equipment to continue his grain operation. Mark heard about Breaking New Ground from his county Extension Office and contacted Steve Swain to see what options were available.

Steve recommended chair lifts on his tractor and combine so he could continue to do the field-work on his own with a little help from a hired hand for tasks such as hooking up equipment or fill-

ing the planter. Steve was also able to make recommendations for modifications in the house to make it more accessible and easier for both Mark and his wife, Dena, to navigate.

Mark then decided to make adjustments to make working with the show pigs easier for him and lessen the amount of outside help he needed. Previously, his daughters had been doing a great deal of the work with the pigs, but with help of The Toolbox and advice from BNG, Mark was able to adapt his farrowing house and barn to accommodate his needs.

When asked what BNG did for him, Mark said "It helped me see how I could continue farming and stay active, which I think also helped me to regain some use of my legs and improve my quality of life."

Mark is currently working on expanding his show pig herd and is trying to pick up more ground to farm.

Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest

Remember that this year's Bridging Horizons Community Service Contest, sponsored by Breaking New Ground and AgVenture Adler Seeds, will be open to any youth or adult service organization in Indiana. Some examples include 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, Jr. Leaders, Boy Scouts, Young Farmers, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions Club, and volunteer fire departments. Each entrant should complete a low-cost project in the community that helps



enhance independence for a person with a disability. Possible projects include building wheelchair accessible ramps, modifying a piece of farm equipment to accommodate a disability, or improving the accessibility of the local county fairgrounds. Bridging Horizons applications should be submitted by June 1, 2011. To download a contest brochure, go to www.breakingnewground.info and click on "Bridging Horizons." You can also email BNG at bng@ecn.purdue.edu or call 800-825-4264 if you have any questions or want to request information.



The AgrAbility Project is on Facebook!

Search "National AgrAbility" and "like" our page to stay up-to-date on the events the staff will be attending, see AgrAbility in the news articles, and check out other videos, photos, and webpages related to agriculture and disability or illness.

2011 AGRABILITY NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANA

Mark your calendars for the 2011 AgrAbility National Training Workshop (NTW)! This year's NTW will be held November 7-11 in Indianapolis, IN at the downtown Hilton hotel and suites. We are very excited for this year's workshop because it marks 20 years of AgrAbility. We hope that you will be able to come celebrate with us.

Last year's NTW had a record number of farmers in attendance and we are hoping to continue to increase farmer participation. Each year we offer scholarships for farmers and their caregivers that pay for the conference registration, hotel room, and transportation costs. Each of the scholarship recipients are able to participate in sessions, learn about available assistive technology, go on agricultural tours, and meet AgrAbility staff and other clients from around the United States.

This experience proves invaluable to any who attend. Linda Oliver-Link of North Carolina attended with her adult son, Christopher, who

became disabled following an accident. When asked what she thought about the conference she said "it was the first time we have been able to be excited with each other and enjoy our time together since Christopher's accident." She then added that "every farmer in the world should be lucky enough to be a part of AgrAbility." This is just one of many positive comments about the AgrAbility National Training Workshop.

We continue to receive support for the farmer scholarship program and it keeps growing each year to allow a greater number of participants to attend. We invite you to go to www.agrability.org to view presentations that were given in previous years

and view the coming year's schedule and information as it becomes available. If you have any questions or if you would like to receive a scholarship application, please email us at bng@ecn.purdue.edu or call 800-825-4264. We look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis in November!



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

MEET THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

This issue of the News Note highlights another partner of Breaking New Ground: The Arthritis Foundation-Indiana Chapter.

The mission of the Arthritis Foundation is "to improve lives through leadership in the prevention, control, and cure of arthritis and its related diseases." This fits in perfectly with AgrAbility's mission to improve the lives of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers who have a disability or other limiting health conditions.

Approximately one-third of all farmers in the United States have a form of arthritis that affects their daily work because of stiffness or pain in the joints. To help prevent the onset of arthritis in farmers and ranchers and to help manage

the effects of arthritis, the Arthritis Foundation and BNG have produced a number of resources, including the Arthritis and Agriculture booklet and the Gaining Ground on Arthritis DVD. A web-based curriculum is also in development, which will include information on such topics as preventing arthritis in rural youth and assistive technology for farmers with arthritis.

The Indiana Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation is based out of Indianapolis, but you can meet Amber Wolfe, AgrAbility Project Coordinator for the Arthritis Foundation, at a number of events around Indiana including the Indiana State Fair, various farm shows, and assorted health fairs.

If you would like to learn more about arthritis in agriculture, visit www.arthritis-ag.org.



Arthritis, Agriculture, and Rural Life Conference

Mark your calendars for the "Arthritis, Agriculture, and Rural Life: State of the Art Research, Practices, and Applications" (AARL) conference! The conference will be held at the Purdue University Beck Center in West Lafayette, IN from May 11-13, 2011. The AARL conference will assist rural professionals in becoming more aware of evidence-based strategies to aid farmers and ranchers battling the many forms of arthritis. It will include a day of farm tours for hands-on applications and experiences, a farmer panel, ergonomics workshops, assistive technology, and more. See www.arthritis-ag.org for more information or contact Amber Wolfe at awolfe@arthritis.org or at 800-783-2342. Registration and housing reservations will open in February.



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