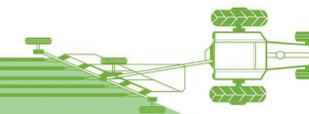


News Note

Breaking New Ground Outreach Program
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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2093
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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

ABE Bldg.
225 S. University St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907

bng@ecn.purdue.edu

BNG Staff:

Bill Field -
Project Leader

Paul Jones -
Program Manager

Kylie Hendress -
Engagement Coordinator

Steve Swain -
Rural Rehab Specialist

Denise Heath -
Administrative Assistant

BREAKING NEW GROUND RECEIVES USDA AGRABILITY GRANT

The staff of Breaking New Ground is excited to announce that they have been awarded a grant from the USDA to continue to fund the Indiana AgrAbility Project for the next four years. For this new grant cycle, Indiana AgrAbility will continue its partnership with the Arthritis Foundation-Indiana Chapter out of Indianapolis to continue sharing information about arthritis and agriculture to a variety of groups and organizations around the state, including Area Agencies on Aging, Purdue Extension, and migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Indiana AgrAbility has also partnered with Hoosier Uplands, based in Mitchell, Indiana. For the next four years, Hoosier Uplands will promote AgrAbility and its programs while working with Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, local rehabilitation hospitals, and area Farm Bureaus in southern Indiana.

In addition to the funded partners, BNG will also be working with several collaborators including INDATA, Transition Resources, Rehab Hospital of Indiana, and the Veteran's Administration.

Working with the funded and unfunded partners will help BNG spread the word about AgrAbility to new audiences who may not have heard of the project in the

past and groups they have worked with pre-

viously. Some of these audiences include Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Purdue Extension, and Area Agencies on Aging which are significant sources of client referrals for AgrAbility; the Veterans Administration; Centers for Independent Living; FFA Chapters; Rehabilitation Facilities, and Indiana Agribusinesses.

The Indiana AgrAbility staff members are looking forward to a great four years with their new partners and their clients.



Enter the Indiana Ag Essay Contest!

Indiana Humanities and Indiana's Family of Farmers are hoping students in grades 4-12 will learn more about Indiana's role as a global agricultural leader by sponsoring an essay contest titled "Our Food, Our Farmers: Feeding the World." The contest asks students to think about and recognize all of the ways that Indiana agriculture plays a role in their lives and the lives of everyone around them.

The contest will be broken into three grade categories: Grades 4-6, 7-9, or 10-12. The first place student in each grade category will receive an Apple iPad, while the second place winner in each category will win a Kodak PlaySport Camcorder. Additionally, all winners will be invited to attend a special recognition ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse on March 8, 2012.

Essays are due by February 1, 2012 and the winners will be contacted in late February. For more

information on the Ag Essay Contest including the entry guidelines and state standards for your grade level, please see www.indianahumanities.org and click on "Enter our Ag Essay Contest." You may also send an email to indianafarmers@gmail.com, RE: 2012 Indiana Ag Day Essay Contest.



Out & About with BNG Upcoming Events

Fort Wayne Farm Show
Jan 17-19
Fort Wayne, IN

Horticultural Congress
Jan 17-19
Indianapolis, IN

National Farm Machinery Show
Feb 15-18
Louisville, KY

Midwest Women in Ag
Feb 29-Mar 1
Shipshewana, IN

American Occupational Therapy Assoc. Conference
Apr 26-29
Indianapolis, IN

THE TOOLBOX IS NOW ONLINE!

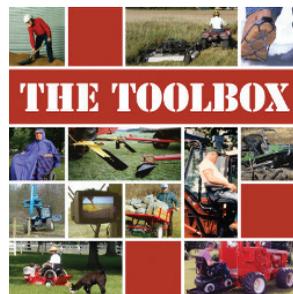
The first edition of "Agricultural Tools, Equipment, Machinery, and Buildings for Farmers with Physical Disabilities" was issued in 1986 by the staff at Breaking New Ground as a resource to show farmers what products are available to assist them after an accident or injury made doing farm tasks more difficult. This binder was a great resource to take on farm visits, show rehabilitation professionals, and distribute to facilities across the country who work regularly with farmers and rural residents. As new products came out, the binder was updated for a total of three editions.

The binder did have some limitations, however, including its bulkiness to carry or ship, the difficulty of updating and re-printing a new edition, and the expense to print and distribute, which meant that not everyone was able to have a copy to keep at home.

In 2002, the first Toolbox CD was produced. This allowed for color photos to be used, had greater portability, and made it easier to search products. There were three editions of the Toolbox CD produced also. The third included a curriculum on assistive technology that was

designed for FFA chapters to educate students about farming with a disability. The shortcomings of the CD are similar to the binder in that a new CD must be produced to add any new products to it, and there are production and shipping costs to distribute it to users.

It is for the reasons mentioned that the Toolbox is now available online! One of the major benefits of having this version online is that



it is now readily available free of charge to anyone in the world who would like to search the database and learn about assistive technology products. Additionally, it is easy to

add new products on a regular basis rather than adding a larger number at once when producing a new binder or CD. The user can also easily search the database for a specific product or explore by looking at categories of products and narrowing down the list from there.

Lastly, the Toolbox also lists the manufacturer of the product and their contact information, estimated price of the product, and the product website to view more information.

To access the Toolbox online and see how this resource works, please visit www.agrability.org/toolbox.

MEET HOOSIER UPLANDS

Indiana AgrAbility is pleased to welcome Hoosier Uplands as a project partner. Based in Mitchell, Indiana, it serves as an Area Agency on Agency, Community Action Agency, Home Health Care Agency, and Community Housing Development Agency. Its mission is "to plan, implement... and provide comprehensive services to the poor, elderly, and disabled [and]... strive to alleviate poverty, improve living conditions, and provide access to health care and social services to those families and individuals in need."

Hoosier Uplands is a good fit with AgrAbility because they are already working to improve rural health and are also working with youth development. They will continue to offer these and other services in addition to the specialized AgrAbility services they will provide.

Linda Tarr of Hoosier Uplands plans to help extend AgrAbility's reach by sharing AgrAbility's mission with Farm Bureau groups, Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, and rehabilitation facilities

with the goal of getting more client referrals from these organizations, as they are the people who work with farmers and/or rural residents with disabilities on a regular basis. She also plans to assist the people of Southern Indiana by offering an annual meeting for rural caregivers of people with disabilities to educate them and provide support and help when they need it.

Additionally, Tarr will also be striving to reach out more to loggers and woodlot owners. This is a large population in Southern Indiana that has not had specialized services through AgrAbility in the past. The Hoosier Uplands and BNG staffs also plan to conduct a workshop to help the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Indiana AgrAbility is excited to work with Hoosier Uplands to reach out to new audiences and help farmers who otherwise would not have heard about AgrAbility. If you would like to learn more about Hoosier Uplands, visit www.hoosieruplands.org.



Visit www.youtube.com/user/NationalAgrAbility to view "AgrAbility: It's About Hope" and other AgrAbility videos!

Toolbox Feature



As the cool weather sets in, people are beginning to split firewood for winter. A log splitter can be very helpful through the long winter months. They usually consist of a wheeled frame with steel wedge at one end, a hydraulic cylinder, and a hydraulic pump powered by a small engine. A log is loaded on the frame and pushed against the wedge, which splits it apart. Many log splitters are portable and can be moved by hand, lawn tractor, or other outdoor mobility vehicle.

Visit:
www.agrability.org/toolbox