National Disability Institute
Assistive Technology Loan Program
Assistance and Technology for Farmers

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Submitting Questions or Technical Difficulties

For Q&A: Please use the Q&A box to send any questions you have during the webinar to Laurie Schaller.

If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing lschaller@ndi-inc.org.
National Disability Institute (NDI)

• We envision a society in which people with disabilities have the same opportunities to achieve financial stability and independence as people without disabilities.

• Our Mission is to collaborate and innovate to build a better financial future for people with disabilities and their families.
NDI’s AT Loan Program

NDI received grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration;

Our services include outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or programs that can help people get assistive technology.

The contents of this orientation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.
What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any technology, accommodation or accessible feature that can help a person perform an action that a person who does not have a disability, can typically do.

- AT ranges from apps, hearing and vision aids, smart home systems, smart phones, stair climbers, standing wheelchairs, home or vehicle modifications, adaptive recreational equipment, accessible housing pods, business equipment, agricultural, farming equipment and environmental adaptations and more.

- Our site spotlights new AT equipment and products
Today we spotlight AgrAbility and the Farm Partners Program at Bassett Healthcare Network, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) services and supports for farmers, ranchers, agricultural and agritourism workers and hobbyists.

We will discuss:

Ways to ensure a safe working environment;
Accommodations and assistive technology assessments;
Stories from the field;
AT Resources and Information;

Funding options to purchase or refinance AT devices, equipment and environmental modifications. Farm Partners Program at Bassett Healthcare Network, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH).
Introducing Tess McKeel:

Tess McKeel
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Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
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1.888.859.1606
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Tess McKeel - National AgrAbility Project Partners, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
Description of the AgrAbility Program

AgrAbility is a program sponsored by USDA-NIFA that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers and their family members impacted by disability, injury or chronic conditions.

Program funding began with the 1991 Farm Bill, with 8 states funded.
Funding for the AgrAbility Program

Grant funding is currently provided by USDA-NIFA for:

One National AgrAbility Project (NAP)

21 State / Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs)

(on a four-year cycle)
Map of funded and affiliate projects in the U.S.
Who is involved in an AgrAbility Project?
Grant funding is available to Land Grant University Cooperative Extension Services who must partner with at least one non-profit disability organization.

National AgrAbility Project:
Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University
Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
OsteoArthritis Action Alliance
Colorado State University
Washington State University
AgrAbility vision statement

The vision of AgrAbility is to enable a high-quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. Through education and assistance, AgrAbility helps to eliminate (or at least minimize) obstacles that block success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.
Who AgrAbility serves

AgrAbility serves individuals in production agriculture who are limited by any type of physical, cognitive or illness-related impairment.

amputation | arthritis | back impairment | hearing impairment | developmental disability | mental health concerns | respiratory disease | spinal cord injury | stroke | traumatic brain injury | visual impairment
Samples of types of agriculture that clients can be involved in.

Just as disability is wide continuum, agriculture is also:

- Row crops: corn, soy, wheat, cotton, etc.
- Ranching
- Sheep and goats
- Dairy
- Produce, including organic
- Orchards
- Agritourism
- Niche markets, like llamas, herbs, etc.
- Floriculture
- Aquaculture
- Hydroponics
- Aquaponics

Just to name a few
AgrAbility Services are Consumer-Centered and may include the following:

- On site assessments to identify barriers
- Recommendation of appropriate assistive technologies; adaptive tools; modified work practices
- Access to informational materials
- Educational and training opportunities through conferences, workshops and online programs
- Referral to appropriate service providers
- Peer support opportunities
Special Responsibilities of the NAP

- Provide support to the state and regional AgrAbility Projects
  - Training
  - Resources
  - Consultations with NAP specialists
- Provide limited direct services to customers in states without AgrAbility projects
AgrAbility does not provide direct funding or equipment, however, will work to connect clients with the appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and other funding sources.
What if your state does not have an AgrAbility Project?

- You can still get technical support from the National AgrAbility Project
- Resources available at www.agrability.org
- Cooperative Extension
- State AT Act Projects
- State VR Agency
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Centers for Independent Living
- USDA- FSA, NRCS
- Encourage your state’s land-grant university(s) to apply for an AgrAbility grant
Key NAP Personnel (slide 1 of 3)

- **Bill Field, Project Director**
  - Founder of Breaking New Ground
  - Overall project oversight
  - Liaison with USDA

- **Paul Jones, Project Manager**
  - Management of daily activities
  - Resource development
Key NAP Personnel (slide 2 of 3)

- **Steve Swain, Assistive Technology Specialist**
  - Toolbox process
  - Liaison with RESNA
  - AT advice to SRAPs and individuals in non-SRAP states

- **Ned Stoller, Assistive Technology Specialist**
  - Toolbox process
  - AT advice to SRAPs and individuals in non-SRAP States
Key NAP Personnel (slide 3 of 3)

- **Chuck Baldwin, Special Populations Outreach Coordinator & Demographic Data Specialist**
  - Networking with 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions, Latino farmworker organizations, others
  - Coordinates demographic data collection process

- **Joe Ricker, Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
  - Outreach to veterans with disabilities interested in agriculture and organizations that serve them
For more information including online training, recorded webinars and the AT Toolbox: www.agrability.org
Introducing Heather Chauncey:

Heather Chauncey, LCAT
Clinical Case Manager
New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health an Affiliate of Basset Healthcare Network
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607.547.6023, ext. 2206
www.nycamh.org
NYCAMH

Enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness.

Heather Chauncey; Clinical Case Manager & Therapist
• What is NYCAMH?

• What kind of agricultural support & services does NYCAMH provide?
NYCAMH Director Podcast
NYCAMH (2)

NEC & NYCAMH
NYCAMH Services: https://www.nycamh.org/

- Farm Safety
- Chainsaw Safety
- Occupational Health
- Health Works
- Respirator Fit Clinics
- PTO Shield Program
- ROPS Rollover Prevention
- John May Farm Safety Program
- Farmers Emergency Fund
- Farm Partners Program
NYCAMH Services-Koval Brothers Dairy Video
Hierarchy of Controls Applied to NIOSH Total Worker Health®

- **Eliminate**
  - Eliminate working conditions that threaten safety, health, and well-being

- **Substitute**
  - Substitute health-enhancing policies, programs, and practices

- **Redesign**
  - Redesign the work environment for safety, health, and well-being

- **Educate**
  - Educate for safety and health

- **Encourage**
  - Encourage personal change

*Suggested Citation: NIOSH (2014). Fundamentals of total worker health: approaches; essential elements for advancing worker safety, health, and well-being. By Lee MH; Hudson H; Richards R; Chang CC; Choewood LC; Schill AL, on behalf of the NIOSH Office for Total Worker Health. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-112.*
Total Farmer Health
Healthy Mind + Healthy Body = Total Farmer Health

Healthy minds and bodies are an outcome of Total Farmer Health®.

If you’re a farmer, rancher, or farmworker, you already know that your work can expose you to a variety of hazards. AgriSafe’s job is to help protect you while you work. We believe that with proper education and access to knowledgeable health professionals, you can live a long, healthy and productive life.

AgriSafe is proud to be a NIOSH Total Worker Health® Affiliate.
• Occupational Exposures & Illnesses

• Sources of Respiratory Hazards in Agriculture:
  • Soil, animals, plants, animal wastes, animal feeds, pesticides, fertilizers, exhaust fumes, welding fumes...
• Occupational Exposures & Illnesses
• Dairy / Heifer farmer in NYS
• Life long Farmer and grew up on his father’s farm.
• Symptoms: started with a cough/wheezing, then shortness of breath.
• He developed chronic Farmers lung and eventually couldn’t walk from one end of the barn to the other, he had no stamina, no strength and had to sell his cows. He was on oxygen for the last 3 years of his life.
• “It was horrible for all of them, seeing their dad/husband slowly, slowly suffocating and organs shutting down”
• Occupational Exposures & Mental Health
• Symptoms/Warning Signs
• Clinical Diagnosis: Depression, Anxiety, PTSD...
• Solutions/Resolutions
  **Vicarious Trauma** to...
  • First Responders,
  • Healthcare Workers,
  • Other Individuals exposed to event(s).
NYCAMH (6)

Promoting Wellness, Resilience & Safety...

Provides...
- Stress Reduction
- Emotional Wellness
- Resiliency
- Transition/Life Planning
- Therapeutic Support
- Farm Visits
- Consultations
- Confidentiality

Free & Confidential Counseling 800-343-7527
NYCAMH.ORG

Contact Farm Partners 800-343-7527 heather.chauncey@bassett.org

Farm Partners-Wellness
ABOUT

Promoting Wellness, Resilience & Safety for the NY farming community through Case Management & Therapeutic Support by a NYS Licensed Therapist.

Farm Partners has been providing free, confidential counseling & problem-solving assistance to the NYS farm community for over thirty years.

Together we can reduce the stigma of Mental Health by sharing information, provide early intervention, engagement in wellness services and reaching out for help to save lives.

NYCAMH

Additional Services

- Farmer's Health Clinic
- FREE:
  - On Site Farm Safety Training
  - Consultations with Safety Specialists
  - Respiratory Fit Tests
  - Personal Protection Equipment Consultation and Sales.
- SAVINGS ON...
  - High-Quality, low-cost PPE:
    - PTO Shields, Seatbelts,
    - Respirators, SMV Signage
    - Tractor Roll Bar Retrofit Rebates
    - Hearing, Eye & Chemical Protection
    - Logging Safety Gear

Farm Partners-Reduce Stigma, Save Lives
Farm Partners Program; Case Management Services

1 of 2

Farm Visit-Assessment, White Tractor
Farm Partners Program; Case Management Services

Farm Visit-Assessment Red Tractor
Adaptability/Modifications 1 of 4

Modifications-Stair Extenders and Handrails
Adaptability/Modifications 3 of 4

Modifications- Electric Gate
Enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness.

Modifications-Bump Gate
Connecting/Networking

Heather Chauncey, LCAT

Clinical Case Manager & Therapist

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Farmers Emergency Fund

- An EMERGENCY is defined as a SERIOUS, UNEXPECTED and often DANGEROUS situation requiring IMMEDIATE action.

- The Farmer identified as experiencing an emergency will be provided with a 1x monetary allowance of up to 1k to assist with an expense related to the emergency, which is atypical and not covered by another type of program offered.
Suicide Prevention

5 Things You Should Know

Suicide is a leading cause of death among working-age adults in the United States. It deeply impacts workers, families, and communities. Fortunately, like other workplace fatalities, suicides can be prevented. Below are 5 things to know about preventing suicide.

Everyone can help prevent suicide.

Mental health and suicide can be difficult to talk about—especially with work colleagues—but your actions can make a difference. When you work closely with others, you may sense when something is wrong.

Know the warning signs of suicide.

There are no single cause for suicide but there are warning signs. Changes in behavior, mood, or even what they say may signal someone is at risk. Take these signs seriously. It could save a life.

Ask “Are you okay?”

If you are concerned about a colleague, talk with them privately, and listen without judgment. Encourage them to reach out to your Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the human resources (HR) department, or a mental health professional.

If someone is in crisis, stay with them and get help.

If you believe a colleague is at immediate risk of suicide, stay with them until you can get further help. Contact an emergency center or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Suicide prevention resources are available.

- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text “TALK” to 741741.
- Visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org) to learn more about suicide risk factors, warning signs, and what you can do to help prevent suicide.

OSHA-Suicide Prevention English & Spanish
Suicide Prevention Resources

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Veterans: Press 1

**Text TALK to 741741**
Text with a trained counselor from the Crisis Text Line for free, 24/7

**The Trevor Project**
TrevorLifeLine: Available 24/7 at
1-866-488-7386
TrevorText: Text TREVOR to
1-102-304-1200
TrevorChat: Via thetrevorproject.org

**Trans Lifeline**
Support for transgender people, by transgender people
1-877-565-8860

**SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline**
Peer-support and local resources for older adults
1-888-234-SAGE

**The LGBT National Hotline**
Peer-support and local resources for all ages
1-888-843-4564

Suicide Prevention Resources
Modification Resources

• Tractor add on steps: http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/?solution=495

• Combine steps: http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/?solution=1567

• Agricultural Lift: Farming and Construction - Tractor Lift - Coach Lift
Heather Chauncey, LCAT
Clinical Case Manager
NYS Licensed Creative Arts Therapist

Closure-Time for Questions
How to Save and Afford AT

Social Security Administration provides work supports for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who work: the Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE) may allow a person to purchase AT while retaining benefits longer or at an increased level.

SSI and many types of Medicaid have resource limits of $2,000 for an individual, $3,000 for a couple; may be more, for larger households.

However, there are protected savings opportunities available that allow SSI and Medicaid beneficiaries to save more and continue to receive SSI benefits and Medicaid.

• Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) to save income towards education that leads to employment goal expenses; and

• Achieve a Better Life Experience: (ABLE Act)

SSA information on protected savings.
ABLE Act

A person who has a disability since before age 26, may open an ABLE savings / investment account at any age.

New Jersey and New York offer ABLE savings accounts; other ABLE plans are available to choose from too.

- Savings up to $100,000 does not count towards the SSI resource limit of $2,000.

- Any amount of ABLE savings does not impact any type of Medicaid eligibility.

An ABLE account owner, friends and family, Special Needs or Pooled Trust or a 529 college savings plan may contribute up to $16,000 into ABLE annually.

An ABLE account owner who works and does not have contributions deposited into a retirement account may contribute up to an additional $12,880 from their employment earnings into their ABLE account.

ABLE contributions can total $28,880 for 2022!

The ABLE National Resource Center Provides Free Information
ABLE Qualified Disability Expenses

• Assistive technology;
• Education;
• Basic living expenses including food and shelter;
• Housing including utilities, rent, modification, purchase, property taxes;
• Transportation;
• Employment training and support;
• Personal support services and respite care;
• Health care expenses;
• Disability related vacations and recreational activities;
• Legal fees and financial management;
• Funeral and burial expenses.
NDI’s Loan Program

• NDI partners a bank and credit union to issue and service pre-qualified AT loans up to $30,000+ for residents of New Jersey and New York;

• NDI buys down the interest rate to 6% and 4% interest;

• NDI has deposited funds with these institutions to guarantee defaults, allowing for more favorable lending terms;

**Our services include** outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or programs that can help the individual acquire the accessible item at no cost, accessibility resource guide.
NDI AT Resource Guides

• The NDI AT Resource Guides list grants, lending programs and other service providers who can help you select the best and most cost-effective AT to meet your needs;

• There are AT Demonstration programs listed where you can try out or borrow AT, sometimes - indefinitely;

• There are AT assessment services that can help you evaluate AT to meet your needs, abilities and activity levels and environment.

Assistive Technology Guide for New York

Assistive Technology Guide for New Jersey
Online Resource Center for People with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions

Financial Resilience Center
Contact

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Manager, Financial Empowerment
AssistiveTechLoans.com
Phone and FAX: (202) 449-9521

Webinars are recorded
Community presentations available
Post webinar survey:

• What information was most helpful?

• Do you need help finding a job?

• What type of AT would you like to know more about?

• Do you want to schedule an NDI AT Loan presentation for your agency or community organization?