Michigan AgrAbility

Cultivating success, one farmer at a time

In Partnership with
1-800-75- SEALS

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What is AgrAbility

Farming isn’t just an occupation. It’s part of who you are. If a farmer is injured or ill, the farm and the family’s livelihood can be seriously disrupted. Michigan AgrAbility can help farmers adjust to disabling conditions so they can keep working and the farm can keep producing. We help farmers identify ways they can continue farming by making modifications to equipment, facilities and daily tasks. Farm family members are eligible for services, too.

Michigan AgrAbility is a joint partnership between Easter Seals Michigan and Michigan State University Extension. Funding is provided by a USDA grant and donations from supporting partners.

Michigan AgrAbility serves people with many types of disabilities, including:

- spinal cord injury
- chronic back pain
- arthritis
- stroke
- respiratory impairment
- joint injury
- amputation
- visual impairment
- hearing impairment
- head injury
- disability due to aging or illness

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Providing services to farmers with
INJURIES & ILLNESSES
so they can continue the
OCCUPATION & LIFESTYLE
they love.

“"It’s amazing how much the crowding tub has helped us manage our livestock. We are so thankful for the help AgrAbility has given us.”

— DEIDRA MATTHEWS
spouse of AgrAbility client Mark Matthews,
Iraq War Veteran

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The Need

There are 52,194 farms in Michigan that employ approximately 215,000 workers including owner/operators, hired labor and family members. (Source: USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture)

There is an average of nine injuries for every 1,000 adult farmworkers. (Source: NASS May 2013)

Common diseases such as arthritis, cancer, stroke, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy are just some of the personal health issues that may leave an individual in a compromised state of physical activity and often result in secondary injury.

Our Services

Disability can change a lifestyle in the blink of an eye. From independence to dependence, an active lifestyle to one of uncertainty, there are many adjustments to be made personally and within the family. In addition to the emotional and physical challenges of adapting, there are financial challenges in adjusting the farm operation to fit a new normal.

Our Method

An agricultural engineer visits the farm to learn the operation, what equipment is being used and what physical limitations hinder the farm work.

After the visit, a summary report is provided to the farmer regarding farm tasks, barriers observed and relevant solutions.

The engineer works with the farmer to research solutions and develop new ideas for overcoming those barriers.

As needed, Michigan AgrAbility staff helps the farmer through the process of acquiring funding to purchase the needed technology.

Our staff assists in the set-up and training of how to use adaptive equipment, and then follows up several months later to ensure everything is operating as intended and helping the farmer.

Our Supporters

YOU CAN HELP, TOO! DONATE AT: www.michiganagrability.org

Michigan AgrAbility offers ASSISTANCE & SOLUTIONS that make a difference.

Our services are offered at NO COST TO THE FARMER.

1,900 FARM WORKERS in Michigan could benefit from our services annually.