



For Immediate Release

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Presentations Set for AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit

MADISON, WI--The AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit will take place Wednesday, March 15th, 2017, with registration starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be provided, and the event will run until 2:00 PM at the Froehlke Auditorium at the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, WI. All are welcome to attend at no cost.

The daylong program gives participants an opportunity to network and learn about resources available through AgrAbility and other Wisconsin programs. Topics to be covered include Easter Seals and AgrAbility farm technology, safety on the farm, and finances and farm transitions.

Dr. Brian Luck, an assistant professor and extension specialist in the Biological Systems Engineering Department at UW-Madison, will be presenting information about assistive technology available to farmers. He is from Kentucky and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering with an emphasis in Machine Systems Automation Engineering from the University of Kentucky. Brian attended Mississippi State University to pursue his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. He joined the AgrAbility of Wisconsin as Co-Director in 2014.

Alicia Lemke will be presenting information on the value of safety on farms. She is a passionate safety professional, working to assist businesses in a variety of industries with compliance, training and policy needs. She performs walk through audits of farms, factories, warehouses and even restaurants. Alicia conducts training classes on numerous topics from forklifts and skid steers to Fall Protection and Accident Investigation. She continues to be asked to lecture to students and colleges and to industry groups such as the Cranberry Growers. Alicia has been in the safety field for over 20 years and continues to enjoy the challenges and rewards of this area.

Paul Dietmann, an Emerging Markets Specialist with Badgerland Financial, plans to cover the topic of farm transitions and succession planning. Dietmann is the former Director of the Wisconsin Farm Center and served as Wisconsin's Deputy Secretary of Agriculture in 2010. Over the course of his career, Dietmann has worked with scores of farm families, helping them develop and analyze their financial plans. He is co-author of the book *Fearless Farm Finances: Farm Financial Management Demystified*.

Registrations will be accepted until March 3rd. Call 608-262-9336 or email aaw@mailplus.wisc.edu to reserve your space today and to get additional information.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin is a partnership that combines the disability expertise of Easter Seals Wisconsin with the educational networking capabilities of the UW-Extension to provide a comprehensive program for farmers and their families affected by disabilities. AgrAbility helps farmers and their families continue to farm safely and successfully.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin Promotes Success in Agriculture for Farmers with Disabilities. For more information contact our office at (608) 262-9336 or visit <http://bse.wisc.edu/agrability>.

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