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AgrAbility of Wisconsin
is a partnership
between the
UW Extension and
Easterseals Wisconsin.



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DVR and AgrAbility Partner to Help Wisconsin Farmers

This past April, AgrAbility of Wisconsin hosted almost 30 Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) staff members for a training at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, in Stratford, Wis. The goal of the event was to offer hands-on experience so DVR staff can develop a better understanding of farming. DVR is a division of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

“DVR can be a strong advocate for agriculture, but we need to continue to work with them so they will understand the importance of this modified equipment and how Assistive Technologies (AT) work on the farm,” says Brian Luck, Director of AgrAbility of Wisconsin.

Dick Straub, co-director of AgrAbility, along with Alan Kaltenberg, a former AgrAbility client, serve on the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council which is advisory to DVR. Both were appointed by the governor to provide “ag voices” to DVR’s advisory group.

DVR and AgrAbility work very closely with the Easterseals Wisconsin FARM Program’s team of Rural Rehabilitation Specialists.

This past June, DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek and DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski visited two farms in Wisconsin to learn more about how farmers use AT on their farms. AgrAbility is planning on continuing training for DVR, both online and in person in the future.

AgrAbility and Easterseals look forward to working closely with our partners at DVR to continue to serve the agriculture community and ensure farmers with disabilities receive the help they need to be successful.



Photo: (Above) DVR Counselor Tanner Linsmeyer feeding a calf. (Below) DVR Training Officer Jim Doeberiner demonstrating the Life Essentials lift.



THANK YOU, AMANDA!

AgrAbility would like to thank Amanda Harguth for her work as the Outreach Specialist. Amanda started with AgrAbility in August 2019. She has moved on to a new position with UW Housing.

“Amanda kept us going through the pandemic, which was not an easy task, and we really appreciate her hard work,” says Brian Luck, Director of AgrAbility of Wisconsin.

While with AgrAbility, Amanda took on some big tasks, including updating brand materials, increasing our reach on social media and helping with the National AgrAbility Training Workshop event hosted by AgrAbility of Wisconsin this past March.

Best wishes, Amanda!



NEW OUTREACH SPECIALIST

AgrAbility of Wisconsin is pleased to welcome Andrea Klahn as its new Outreach Specialist. Prior to starting at AgrAbility, Klahn worked as a Marketing & Communications Specialist at AgSource Co-operative Services (now part of VAS) for seven years. For the past four years, she has been a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters, ages 4 and 2.

“My passion is agriculture, so it’s great to be working in the industry again,” says Klahn. “I’m excited to share AgrAbility’s message and mission with farmers throughout the state.”

Klahn grew up on a farrow-to-finish hog and cash crops farm in Lodi, Wis., and attended the UW–Madison to study Agricultural Journalism. When she is not chasing after a toddler, she enjoys going to the Farmer’s Market and reading.



NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

September 18-24, 2022

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. Take the time to teach your crew how to be safe on the roads, around livestock and the grain bin. Learn more about webinars during Farm Safety week online, <https://www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek/>.



WELL DONE, CHERYL SKJOLAAS!

After a 38-year career with UW Extension and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) at UW-Madison, Cheryl Skjolaas retired this past July. Cheryl started her career as a 4-H Youth Agent in Pierce County. She came to work at the UW-Madison in 1990.

Cheryl has worked with the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification program and the County Farm Safety Grant program, as well as AgrAbility of Wisconsin and the National AgrAbility Project. Cheryl also directed the UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health. Cheryl has been a valued resource and continued advocate for farm safety in our state for almost four decades. We thank her for all her years of dedication.

Best wishes on your next chapter, Cheryl!



See you at....

World Dairy Expo

October 2-7, 2022

Booth EH 4511

Madison, Wis.

SHUTSKE RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

In July, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) presented John Shutske, UW-Madison professor and agricultural safety and health specialist, with the Ergonomics, Safety, and Health Award. The award was presented to recognize Shutske's 37-years of leadership and interdisciplinary teamwork that focuses on tackling long-accepted problems through Extension, engineering, and education for a safer and healthier agricultural workplace.

Shutske is a faculty member in UW's Biological Systems Engineering Department where he directs cross-disciplinary research. Throughout his career, Shutske has made significant improvements to agricultural workplace safety and health conditions and reduction of property loss. He conducted some of the early research in 1991-92 in child development and its applications in farm injury prevention.

This work eventually led to the multi-national development of the North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks, led by the National Farm Medicine Center, one of Shutske's many long time collaborators and frequent partners in efforts to protect farmers and their families.

Congrats John!





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WELLNESS RESOURCES

As we prepare for the busy, fall harvest season, remember to take time for your own health and wellbeing. As the saying goes, “You can’t pour from an empty cup.” There are several great resources available, but here are a few to start. Wishing you a safe and bountiful harvest season!

- **FarmWell Wisconsin – To Farm Well, You Need to Be Well** farmwellwi.org
- **Farm Bureau - #FarmNeighborsCare** wfbf.com/mental-health-resources
- **TUGS – Talking, Understanding, Growing, Supporting** tugsgroup.com
- **DATCP Farm Center**

