



March 2023
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YOU'RE INVITED!

AgrAbility Summit April 6, 2023

Join us for the 2023 AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit, to be held on Thursday, April 6, at the Cranberry Country Lodge, in Tomah, Wis. This year's event has a focus on Veteran farmers and farmer wellness and will run from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend at no cost and meals will be provided. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Center, part of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

The Summit will kick off with a farmer – veteran networking breakfast from 8:30-9:30am. Volunteers from the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Wisconsin will be in attendance to discuss their program.

At 10:00 am, Jeff Ditzenberger will be the keynote speaker and

share his journey with mental health. Jeff served in the military and is the founder of TUGS – Talking, Understanding, Growing, Supporting, a nonprofit community organization founded in 2013 with a singular mission: to address the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and suicide.

“2023 is being called the ‘Year of Mental Health’, and we’re proud to use our platform to share resources available,” says Brian Luck, Director of AgrAbility of Wisconsin. “We moved to a bigger venue this year and we hope to fill the room.”

Other presentation topics include soil health, farm business strategic planning, assistive technology and DATCP programs.

Registration and event details can be found at: <https://agrability.bse.wisc.edu/events/2023-summit/>.

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Successful FARM ON! Event Held January 14 at Carl F. Statz & Sons

On Saturday, January 14, Carl F Statz & Sons and AgrAbility of Wisconsin co-hosted an open house! Held at Carl F. Statz in Waunakee, Wis., the day focused on farm resources. Dan Bauer, Program Supervisor, presented valuable services offered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Farm Center. Examples included financial consulting, transition planning, conflict mediation, veteran farmer assistance, veterinary diagnostic analysis, and a Farmer Wellness Program. Andrea Klahn, Outreach Specialist, spoke about the AgrAbility program and directed attendees to a display of relevant safety information.

Thank you to Pam Jahnke, "Fabulous Farm Babe" - Farm Director of the Midwest Farm Report Network, for MC'ing the event. Congrats to Miranda, winner of the drawing for two tickets to see Reba McEntire in Milwaukee on March 17.



BUSY WINTER TRADESHOW SEASON

It's been a busy winter tradeshow season for AgrAbility of Wisconsin. We've had a great time hearing from clients and meeting farmers from around the state. AgrAbility attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Conference, the Wisconsin Farmer Union's annual meeting, the Wisconsin AgriBusiness Classic, Corn/Soy Expo and Marbleseed Organic Conference. Stop by the booth at the WPS Farm Show, March 28-30 in Oshkosh, Wis.



See you at....

**Farm
Technology
Days**
July 18-20, 2023
Baraboo, Wis.

CALL FOR EQUIPMENT!

AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE

Do you have items you no longer utilize?

Years after working with AgrAbility, farmers who have changed their operations may no longer need or use equipment received. The Agricultural Equipment Exchange allows farmers to pass on that equipment to make another farmer's work easier and to make it possible for others to continue to do the work they love.

The Agricultural Equipment Exchange is a web-based resource for Wisconsin's farmers with a goal of reducing the waste of serviceable equipment, making it available for others who can use it.



By using this exchange program, equipment can be listed for sale by the owner, at a reasonable cost or free, and is marked as deliverable or available for pickup, along with the contact information.

Got an item for the exchange? Please visit the website or contact Melba Brown, mbrown@eastersealswisconsin.org.



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USDA DEVELOPS SIMPLIFIED DIRECT LOAN APPLICATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed a simplified direct loan application to provide improved customer experience for producers applying for loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The simplified direct loan application enables producers to complete a more streamlined application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages. Producers will also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or prepare a traditional, paper application for submission to their local FSA farm loan office.

The paper and electronic versions of the form will be available starting **March 1, 2023**.

In October 2022, USDA launched the Loan Assistance Tool, an online step-by-step guide that provides materials to help an applicant prepare their farm loan application in one tool. Farmers can access the Loan Assistance Tool by visiting farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool and clicking the 'Get Started' button. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser.

