



Oklahoma AgrAbility

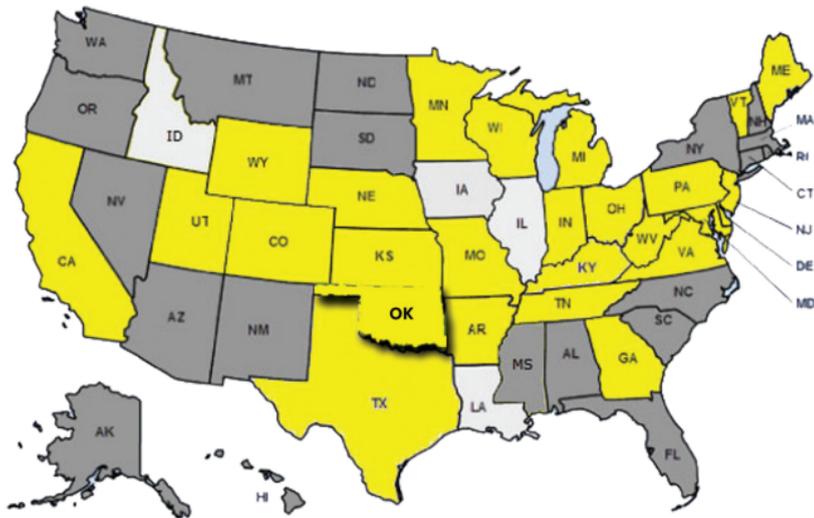
Cultivating Accessible Agriculture
2011



NATIONAL AGRABILITY PROJECT



AgrAbility is a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers, other agricultural workers, and farm family members impacted by disability. It consists of a National Project and State/Regional Projects (currently serving 25 states), each involving collaborative partnerships between land grant universities and various non-profit disability service organizations.



JANUARY 2011

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Oklahoma AgrAbility

Oklahoma AgrAbility has provided direct services to 53 individuals with disabilities in the current grant year.

OKLAHOMA PROJECT PARTNERS



Langston University
School of Physical
Therapy

www.agrability.okstate.edu

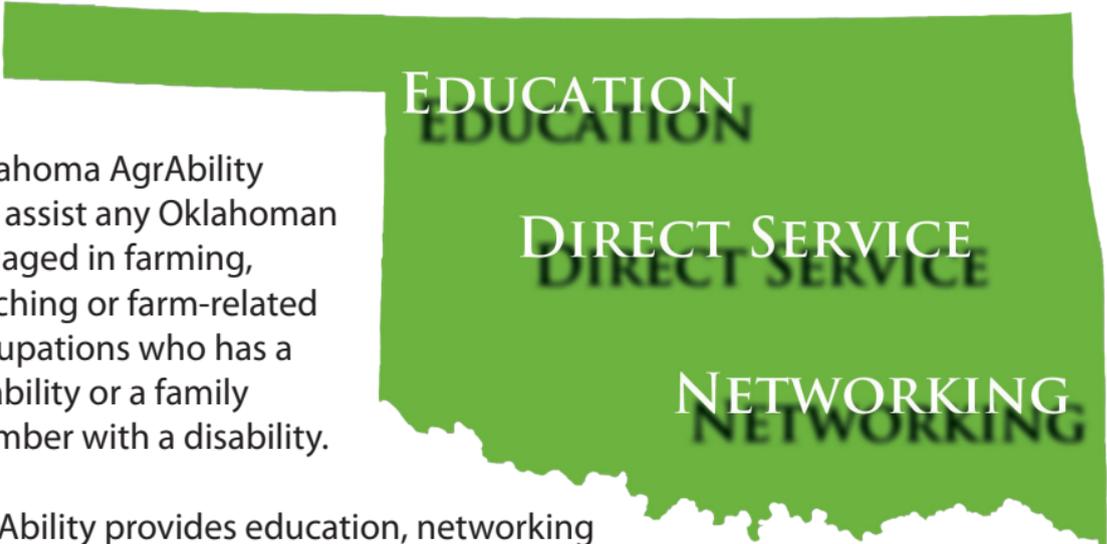
Oklahoma  AgrAbility

888-885-5588 (voice/tty)

OKLAHOMA PROJECT PRIORITIES

Oklahoma AgrAbility can assist any Oklahoman engaged in farming, ranching or farm-related occupations who has a disability or a family member with a disability.

AgrAbility provides education, networking and direct assistance to create awareness of state and local services and modifications to farms, homes, equipment and work sites.



EDUCATION

DIRECT SERVICE

NETWORKING

FEBRUARY 2011

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Low Vision Awareness Month

In 2008, there were 120,130 Oklahomans of all ages that had vision difficulties.



Wayne and his wife live in northeast Oklahoma on eight acres where they have a garden, a small orchard and raise chickens. He was in need of equipment that would accommodate his disabling conditions that include Fibromyalgia, Myofacitis, and two fused vertebrae in his cervical spine.

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WAYNE

Wayne had plans to expand his garden to include tomatoes, okra and cucumbers but experienced obstacles due to the physical pain he endured while operating equipment and completing tasks. Funding provided by the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation's Assistive Technology Grant for Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities, as well as, his personal contribution toward the purchase of a 3-point rotary tiller, gave him an opportunity to prep his soil bed with less physical impact to his body. "It's like a dream come true for me!" Wayne said.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

**Oklahoma
Ag Statistic**
12.7% of males
and 19.7%
of females eat
5 or more
servings of
fruits &
vegetables a
day.

Safety Tip

Never fuel a
rototiller if
the engine/
muffler is hot.
Use a rag to
wipe up fuel
spills.

MARCH 2011

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

More than 50% of
Oklahoma 4-H alumni
earn a college degree
compared to 20% of the
general populace.



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OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) is a proud part of Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences & Natural

Resources. OCES Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences and 4-H Educators live and work side-by-side with local residents throughout the state, addressing issues that impact Oklahoma families. OCES is Oklahoma's source for research-based information, working to develop educational programs that increase opportunities for: youth, family and community development; natural resources and environmental management; as well as productive agricultural enterprises.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

In 2006, the OCES 4-H program reached over 134,000 students across Oklahoma.

Garden Tip

Remove winter mulch from your beds by pulling the mulch gradually as plants show signs of growth.

APRIL 2011

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Minority Health Awareness Month

In Oklahoma from 2002 to 2006, African Americans had the highest heart disease age-adjusted death rate.



Jousa Kao and his wife live on three acres in northeast Oklahoma. They grow fruits and vegetables to sell at a local farmer's market. Assistive technology was needed to assist him when lifting heavy items into the van to transport their produce.

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JOUA KAO

Two hoop houses and 50 rows of plants (approximately 250' long) are dedicated to growing squash, zucchini, green beans, sugar peas, spinach, tomatoes, broccoli, brussel sprouts, okra, eggplant (Asian, Japanese and Ball), sweet basil, Thai pepper, lemon grass, rice, and strawberries, as well as, mustard greens, cilantro, garlic and romaine lettuce.

A disabling heart condition prevents Joua Kao from participating in strenuous activity that includes lifting and hauling heavy materials. A hydraulic lift table was identified to assist Joua Kao when transferring crates full of produce into the van. Funding for the lift table was made available through the Assistive Technology Grant for Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities from the Oklahoma Assitive Technology Foundation (OkAT).



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

In 2007, Oklahoma's croplands made up 37.1% of total farmland.

Safety Tip

When lifting, keep the load close to you and use your leg muscles to stand up lifting the load off the floor.

MAY 2011

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National Arthritis Awareness Month

812,000 Oklahoma adults were diagnosed with arthritis by a doctor in 2007.



Dee and her husband live on five acres in north-central Oklahoma where they garden, raise chickens and sheep. Carpal tunnel, nerve damage and injuries from a vehicular incident have created painful obstacles while working on her farm.

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DEE

Gardening and caring for her animals are priorities for Dee who has 100 brown egg-laying chickens, a herd of sheep and three rescued horses in need of rehabilitation. With the pain she experiences from injury to her back, severe carpal tunnel in both wrists, nerve damage in both hands and knee surgery, Dee was in need of assistive technology that would reduce pain and obstacles related to completing tasks.

The Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) grant provided funding for tools and equipment that included a gate wheel, 2-way mail box, soaker hose and reel.



**Oklahoma
Ag Statistic**
Oklahoma ranked 5th in goat inventory for the United States in 2010.

Garden Tip

Stay out of the garden when leaves are wet. Walking on wet gardens will spread diseases.

JUNE 2011

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**Langston University's
School of Physical
Therapy**

The first Doctor of
Physical Therapy Program
in Oklahoma.



Langston University
School of Physical Therapy

www.agrability.okstate.edu

Oklahoma  AgrAbility

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Langston University offers the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. Each year students participate in a week long seminar focused on the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project and the rehabilitation needs of farmers and ranchers. This seminar incorporates a hands on learning experience at Langston University's renowned E. (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research. The School of Physical Therapy faculty are educators and physical therapist clinicians who are committed to excellence in education, clinical practice, and research. Graduates are licensed and work in Oklahoma as physical therapists who focus on the mission of the School of Physical Therapy program.

Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

In 2008,
Oklahoma
reported
having 86,600
farms.

Safety Tip

Choose a
rake that is
ergonomically
correct. It will
require you
to bend less
and keep your
spine in a safer
position.

JULY 2011

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UV Safety Month

The American Cancer Society estimated that Oklahoma would see 700 new cases of melanoma in 2008.



Bill farms approximately 500 acres in southwest Oklahoma where he provides custom fertilizer application services, prepares seed beds and top dresses wheat for other farmers. Following four accidents that decreased strength, endurance and sensation in his hands, he experienced difficulty working with his machinery and equipment.

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BILL

A computer kit and accessories that uses GPS technology to monitor fertilizer application and avoid waste, and an automatic steering kit that allows for hands-free tractor operation provided accommodations for Bill who said, "I would probably be trying to quit farming if it weren't for the help I received from Oklahoma AgrAbility."

Bill's success story celebrates the coordination of efforts from the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project, and funding opportunities from the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation - Access to Telework Fund Program that also provided him a bank loan for a Big Country Wagon.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

Hard red winter wheat (HRW) is the dominant wheat class in Oklahoma.

Garden Tip

A garden needs one inch of rain or water each week. Early morning is the best time to water.

AUGUST 2011

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**Oklahoma
Assistive Technology
Foundation**

OkAT has served 6 clients through the Assistive Technology Grant for Farmers with Disabilities in 2010.



**Oklahoma Assistive
Technology Foundation**

www.agrability.okstate.edu

Oklahoma AgrAbility

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OKLAHOMA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

The Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation's (OkAT) mission is to assist Oklahomans with disabilities and their family members to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT). OkAT has three main services: Alternative Financing Program (AFP), Access to Telework Fund (ATF) and Oklahoma AgrAbility. The Assistive Technology Grant for Farmers with Disabilities funds of up to \$750.00 for the purchase of needed assistive technology for eligible AgrAbility clients. The AFP has loaned more than \$4 million to individuals with disabilities for AT. Telework Fund provides eligible individuals with disabilities a bank loan to purchase needed equipment for employment.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

**Oklahoma
Ag Statistic**
Cattle and
calves were
listed as
the top ag
commodity
in 2009.

Safety Tip

To help with
lower back
pain a
sit/stand
stool can be
used when
standing for a
long time.

SEPTEMBER 2011

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National Farm Safety and Health Week

In Oklahoma, 88 fatal injuries were identified in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry during 1998-2001.



Cheeneng is a poultry farmer in northeast Oklahoma where he raises baby chicks in poultry houses. Injuries sustained from multiple automobile accidents contribute to neck, shoulder and back pain that make it difficult and painful for Cheeneng to complete related tasks.

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CHEENENG

Cheeneng has his hands full when four poultry houses are operating at full capacity with approximately 96,000 chicks! Assistive technology and site accommodations were needed to reduce his physical pain and increase his endurance and productivity. Two wheeled carts were identified to assist Cheeneng when he needs to haul heavy materials as well as anti-fatigue matting to cover the concrete floor in the pump control room. Anti-slip textured paint applied to the smooth outdoor concrete, and hand-railing installed near steps leading into his home will further assist Cheeneng.

Funding through the Assistive Technology for Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities Grant from the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) provided equipment and materials for the needed accommodations.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

Oklahoma ranks 5th in the nation in cattle and calf production.

Garden Tip

Spring blooming bulbs are best to plant in October.

OCTOBER 2011

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**National Disability
Employment
Awareness Month**

70% of Oklahomans
with disabilities are
unemployed.

"Opening Doors To Opportunity"



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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services provides Oklahomans with disabilities that have a barrier to employment vocational rehabilitation (VR) services that will assist a person in reaching their employment goal, including self-employment such as farming. To be eligible for VR a person must require VR services to prepare for, find, keep or return to work. Eligible clients may receive vocational, medical or psychological services; physical and mental restoration; vocational training; rehabilitation equipment and devices; and/or equipment to operate a business in a self employment case. There are specialized services for people who are blind, deaf, or hard of hearing.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

In 2009,
Oklahoma
reported
35,100,000
acres of
farmland.

Safety Tip

Use light bulbs that are 2 to 3 times stronger than usual on stairs and paths to create more light for better visibility.

NOVEMBER 2011

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American Diabetes Month

7 out of every 100 adults in Oklahoma has diabetes, ranking it 16th highest in the nation by ratio.



Thompson experiences difficulty lifting, pulling and hitching his farm equipment due to a diabetes diagnosis and pinched nerves in his neck, which causes loss of control in his arms.

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THOMPSON

Thompson's farm in southern Oklahoma includes a hay business covering over 4,500 acres and a cow-calf operation with 150 cows. Approximately 8,000-10,000 bales of hay are sold from Thompson's farm to Braum's Dairy in Stonewall, Oklahoma. Naturally, with this size of operation, Thompson is always on the go with little time for obstacles. When physical pain began to decrease his productivity, Thompson joined forces with Oklahoma AgrAbility and the Department of Rehabilitation Services-Visual Services Division.

"DRS and AgrAbility could not have worked better together. They worked as a team and came out and actually listened to what would work and what wouldn't. They were real knowledgeable about the equipment and really understood what I needed," stated Thompson.



Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

Oklahoma
is ranked 2nd
in hay
production.

Garden Tip

Order seed
catalogs now
for garden
planning in
January.

DECEMBER 2011

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**Oklahoma
ABLE Tech**

In 2010, ABLE Tech served over 2,700 individuals with disabilities through its core services.



Oklahoma ABLE Tech
Stillwater, OK
800-257-1705

www.agrability.okstate.edu

Oklahoma  **AgrAbility**

888-885-5588 (voice/tty)

OKLAHOMA ABLE TECH



ABLE Tech is funded under the Assistive Technology Act by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech strives to improve the access and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) to

individuals with disabilities of all ages statewide. ABLE Tech accomplishes this purpose by providing AT through a short term equipment loan program, AT demonstration centers, re-utilization of AT through the Equipment Exchange and a low interest bank loan for AT. ABLE Tech also provides information and referral services, training on various AT topics and collaborates with state agencies and private organization to enhance the understanding of AT.

Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Oklahoma Ag Statistic

In 2009, Oklahoma ranked 13th among states in the export of wheat and products.

Safety Tip

Install handrails near toilets and in bathtubs for stability.