

## Farmer SUCCESS Spotlight focuses on Mickey

Mickey has been a farmer since he was 12 years old. He and his wife, Catherine, now farm 300 acres in northeast Oklahoma, where Mickey raises milo, small grains, and some wheat.

Farming has always been a major part of Mickey's life, but arthritis, a lower extremity amputation, and cardiovascular disease have posed barriers for Mickey in his agricultural production. Due to his cardiovascular disease, Mickey uses an implant to pump his heart for him. These health barriers make it difficult for Mickey when standing, walking, sitting—and especially when twisting.

While Mickey is glad to have the pump which keeps his heart beating and his blood pumping throughout his body, his heart condition keeps him from being too active or from exerting very much energy. With these obstacles to Mickey's health and, therefore, to his agricultural operation, his wheat production diminished drastically and his hog operation dissolved. His tractor—an essential tool for any farmer with 300 acres of crops—was difficult to maneuver. It was especially challenging for



Mickey to twist and see behind while operating his tractor and while hooking up equipment and implements. Because of these obstacles, for the past seven years, Mickey has mostly only been able to produce milo.

Mickey needed assistive technology to keep his farm running, so AgrAbility connected Mickey with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation. OkAT was able to provide Mickey with assistive technology that enhances Mickey's tractor. OkAT provided a monitor and accompanying rear-facing camera mounted on the back of the tractor, helping Mickey to complete his agricultural activities using his tractor. Now Mickey doesn't have to strain or possibly injure himself twisting to view the space behind his tractor while attaching equipment. With the help from OkAT and the assistive technology they provided, Mickey plans to return to his wheat crop in the coming years.

Through AgrAbility, OkAT was able to provide the assistive technology that Mickey needed to continue his agricultural operation. At just over 71 years old now, Mickey won't have to quit farming anytime soon.



### About Oklahoma AgrAbility

Oklahoma AgrAbility educates and connects agricultural families who are living with a disability with resources to secure assistive technologies for continued independence and success in their operation and daily life activities.



## iPads Can Help!



If you need assistance around the farm with organizing, communicating, reading, remembering, or tracking tasks, you may want to borrow an iPad from ABLE Tech to determine if there may be an app that could help you. With “try before you buy,” Oklahoma ABLE Tech can loan iPads for up to six weeks at no cost. The short-term loan program is available to Oklahomans with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals who support them.

For more information:  
 Call Oklahoma ABLE Tech at 405-744-9748 or toll free at 888-885-5588 (v/tty) or visit [www.okabletech.okstate.edu](http://www.okabletech.okstate.edu)

## OkAT's Low-Interest Bank Loan

Assistive technology for farming operations can provide successful solutions. OkAT partners with AgrAbility to assist clients with a low-interest bank loan for modified equipment or assistive technology.



For more details or to see if you qualify, please call 888-885-5588 or visit [www.okatfoundation.org](http://www.okatfoundation.org)



Langston University

## LANGSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

*Experiencing AgrAbility  
 Firsthand*

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Langston University will collaborate with the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project to provide a unique teaching and learning opportunity for its students the week of July 22–26. The purpose is to equip the students to develop a plan of care for a farmer or rancher who has suffered an injury. As part of their learning experience, the students will visit farms or ranches to explore the terrain, witness daily farm chores, observe livestock management, and experiment with farm equipment/assistive technology.



## OKLAHOMA FFA FOUNDATION

The FFA is raising up its next generation of leaders with its Annual COLT (Chapter Officer Leadership Training) Conferences. Attendees enjoy speakers, workshops, and lasting connections. Each of the five districts hosts its own.

- SE District in McAlester on August 27**
- Central District in OKC on September 3**
- NE District in Tulsa on September 10**
- SW District in Lawton on September 17**
- NW District in Enid on September 24**

Questions? Contact the Oklahoma FFA Foundation at 405-743-5496 or visit [www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org)



**CONNECTING YOUTH,  
 AGRICULTURE, and ACCOMMODATIONS**

Get Movin' and Groovin' with Oklahoma AgrAbility for the 92nd State 4-H Roundup! The workshop, part of this year's Roundup, will take place July 24th on the Oklahoma State University campus, where you can come discover and experience balance, flexibility, strength, and endurance that could benefit you and your older relatives and friends. At this workshop, you will receive neat handouts to share when you return to your county. Attendees will also learn about the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project through activities available for all ages.

For more information, please contact Jan Maples at 918-623-0641 or email her at [janelle.maples@okstate.edu](mailto:janelle.maples@okstate.edu)





# Oklahoma Extension hosts National Training Workshop

Themed “Cultivating Accessible Agriculture,” the 2013 National AgrAbility Training Workshop was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on April 8–11. The workshop provided a wealth of strategies and tools that could be used to help those involved with Oklahoma agriculture who have disabilities. Time-tested, research-based ideas were gleaned at every session of the conference.



“Through my attendance at the National Training Workshop, I gained valuable insight into AgrAbility projects throughout the nation,” says Jan Maples, Extension Educator, FCS/4-H Youth Division. “Participating in the individual workshops provided me with ideas to create new educational opportunities for citizens here in Oklahoma.”

## Assistive Technology *TIP SHARE*

Summer can be fun, but the heat can be dangerous. Did you know heat cramps can lead to heat stroke? This stage, heat stroke, is the most dangerous when the body begins to shut down.

**Stay safe!** Take breaks from the heat, don't go out during the hottest time of day, reduce your activity, and drink plenty of water.

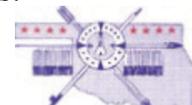
**Stay cool!** One of the tools you can use to keep cool and safe this summer is the cooling vest. It keeps you cool using icepacks or water, and makers even offer headbands and wrist wraps. They are even reusable—just refreeze!



## Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Council



The Council promotes, serves, and provides services for nine tribes of Oklahoma, helping to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma Indians with disabilities. Some services may include vocational counseling, assistance with training, work-site modification services, and medical evaluations.



For more information or to check your eligibility, contact your tribal VR program.

## People of AgrAbility: Debbie Davenport



Debbie Davenport's job is employment. She has worked in vocational rehab since 1999, and in 2006, she became Director of the Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Services program. Debbie is also Co-Chair of the Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Council (OKTVR) which is comprised of nine Oklahoma tribes—the Apache, Cherokee, Cheyenne & Arapaho, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Comanche, Delaware, Iowa, and Muscogee Creek—who were awarded a federal grant to provide services to American Indians with Disabilities in order to reach an employment outcome. The Council was formed to provide support and a stronger voice for the People.

Debbie became a member of the AgrAbility advisory council as a representative for the tribal VR programs. Working for a tribal VR program, she sees the need for and impact of the AgrAbility Project. Debbie says, “Partnering with AgrAbility is a win-win situation for our consumers.”





## On the Horizon: AgrAbility Events

OSU Department of Education  
Vision 20/20 Conference  
July 8-11, Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Association Conference  
July 18, Norman, OK

4-H State Roundup  
July 24-26, OSU campus

Langston University School of Physical Therapy  
AgrAbility Summer Experience  
July 22-26

On the Road Family Perspective Workshop  
September 17, Vinita, OK



**GO GREEN!** Email us at [ability@okstate.edu](mailto:ability@okstate.edu) with the subject line "Email Newsletter" to discontinue your hard copy and receive an electronic copy.

## Oklahoma AgrAbility Staff

Oklahoma State University  
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service  
Jan Johnston, PI, Co-Director

Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
Linda Jaco, Co-Director  
Sandra Stevenson, Program Manager  
Diana Sargent, Program Assistant  
Tammie Honeyman, Program Assistant  
Lindsay Love, Marketing Coordinator  
Emily Dye, Professional Writer

Langston University  
School of Physical Therapy  
Aliya Chaudry, Co-Director

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Oklahoma AgrAbility  
Oklahoma State University  
1514 West Hall Of Fame  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-0488