

Assistive Technology in Agriculture

Farming and disability facts:

A farming environment can be challenging for people with disabilities. Approximately 9 percent of Americans suffer from some form of serious physical disability. It is estimated that between 15 and 30 percent of farm operators and farm workers have physical disabilities, many of them sustained on the farm.

If you or a member of your family have a disability and want to continue farming and are experiencing barriers in the way you farm, you may want to make changes by using assistive technology devices and services through the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project. While technology can make things easier for everyone; assistive technology can make farming possible for individuals with disabilities.

What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology for people who live in farming communities includes any kind of device, modification, or service that will help a person with a disability work and live more independently in the rural setting.

An assistive technology device is any item or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities, allowing them to function independently in any setting including: recreation, education, employment and daily living.

What kind of devices are available?

Farming is traditionally a high labor-intensive profession that involves physically demanding work. Farming tasks that can be physically demanding include:

- handling livestock
- climbing grain bins and silos
- operating heavy equipment
- moving bulky supplies and materials

Today's farmer can use automated technology solutions for these labor-intensive processes, creating solutions that make work easier for people with disabilities. Assistive technology for farming operations can include, but is not limited to:

- electronics
- monitoring systems
- hydraulics
- computerization
- motorized lifts
- outdoor mobility aids
- modifications to farm buildings
- farm tools
- the farm house
- modifications for farm machinery
- prosthetic and worksite adaptations
- automated gates



Assistive Technology

Who is eligible?

Oklahoma residents with a disability who are in need of an accommodation, who are currently working in agriculture or have a desire to work in agriculture, are eligible. AgrAbility can visit your farm to help determine your technology needs through on-site assessments. They can also provide information about safety, equipment loans, available funding opportunities, and assistive technology solutions.

Does AgrAbility help Obtain Funding for Assistive Technology?

AgrAbility can help determine what Assistive Technology is needed and how to obtain it. AgrAbility professionals can make referrals to funding sources appropriate to your specific need and use. The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services may be one option to assist you. Eligibility is determined on a case by case basis. Another funding option is the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation which assists people with disabilities purchase needed assistive technology through low interest cash loans. There is an application process with eligibility requirements for both of these funding sources.

What is the cost?

There is no fee for AgrAbility professionals to provide on-farm assessments to determine what assistive technology may benefit you and your farm operation. The assistive technology costs are determined on a case by case basis depending upon the specific device(s) needed by the individual with a disability.

Assistive Technology Resources:

Oklahoma AgrAbility Project
Oklahoma State University
1514 West Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078
Toll Free: 888-885-5588 (voice/TDD)
www.agrability.okstate.edu

Oklahoma Assistive Technology
Foundation
311 South Duck
Stillwater, OK 74074
Toll Free: 800-257-1705 (voice/TDD)
www.okatfoundation.org

Oklahoma ABLE Tech
Oklahoma State University
Seretean Wellness Center
1514 West Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078
Toll Free: 800-257-1705 (voice/TDD)
www.okabletech.okstate.edu

Oklahoma Funding for Assistive Technology

A Guide to Solving the Funding Puzzle and Receiving Assistive Technology in Oklahoma
Contact Oklahoma AgrAbility at 888-885-5588 for additional information.



About Oklahoma AgrAbility

Oklahoma AgrAbility connects farmers and ranchers with disabilities to resources that may help provide continued success in their enterprise, operation and daily life activities. AgrAbility strives to provide education, assistance and support to those in need.

Contact Oklahoma AgrAbility

888-885-5588 (voice/tty) • agrability.okstate.edu • ability@okstate.edu

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