



# *2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop*



**Atlanta, GA • March 25-28, 2024**





# ***2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop***

Atlanta, GA ~ March 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

## ***Presented by:***

The National AgrAbility Project  
AgrAbility in Georgia  
Purdue University Breaking New Ground Resource Center  
Goodwill of the Finger Lakes  
Colorado State University  
Washington State University  
AgriSafe  
Osteoarthritis Action Alliance

## ***Special Thanks to the following sponsors***

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# Welcome

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Welcome to Georgia!

Welcome to the 32<sup>nd</sup> AgrAbility National Training Workshop. We are delighted to be in the great state of Georgia where spring comes early, the hospitality is warm, and the peaches are unsurpassed. The organizing committee is expecting the largest attendance ever, and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Over the years, I have built a nice collection of cool farm hats. They include hats from the big green, red, and orange tractor makers, seed corn and fertilizer companies, FFA, and various farm organizations. I believe I have one of the first with the “AgrAbility logo” on it. My favorite collector hats are, however, two that I acquired as the result of trading the one I was wearing with the one being worn by a farmer I was visiting at the time. One was from a Ukrainian farmer who was delighted to exchange his dirty, sweat-soaked hat for my crisp, clean hat with a John Deere logo. The other was from a Vermont farmer who traded back his beat-up, old “Breaking New Ground” hat for a new “AgrAbility” hat. Both of their hats clearly showed the wear and tear of two hard-working farmers who refused to allow their hardships and limitations push them to the sidelines. Both hats reflected in a very tangible way what AgrAbility is all about. If you see a few folks proudly wearing new AgrAbility hats at this event, you’ll know that I am still doing a little “hat trading.”

The planning committee has been working hard to make this year’s workshop better than ever. You will have the opportunity to meet approximately 250 great supporters of AgrAbility from all over the U.S. and a few foreign countries. There are over 50 technical sessions to choose from, keynote speakers to motivate you, great tours on Thursday, and great food to fellowship over.

Planning committee members will be wearing easy-to-identify ribbons on their name badges, and are here to assist you in any way to make your experience in Georgia as productive as possible.

Finally, I want to personally thank each of you for all you do to make AgrAbility a significant influence in the lives of so many. Thank you for letting your light shine so brightly.

William E. Field  
Director, National AgrAbility Project.

# 2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

### Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

#### Pre-Conference Sessions

- 9:00 am-3:30 pm **Mental Health First Aid - Peachtree**
- 1:00-4:00 pm **New Staff Training – Grand Ballroom 3**
- 1:00-4:00 pm **Worksite Assessment, Secondary Injury and AT Selection – Buckhead Ballroom**
- 1:00-4:00 pm **Offsite Tour – Shepherd Center**
- 4:30-6:00 pm **Welcome Reception and Poster Session – Grand Ballroom Pre-function area**

Dinner on your own

### Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 am **Opening Session – Grand Ballroom 1&2**
- 9:15 am **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Farming likes it's 2024, Equipment and Technologies ...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Critical Conversations: Challenges for Service Providers...*  
*Peachtree \* Creating a Program to Educate OT's & PT's on Rehabbing...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Discussion on Organizations Serving Veterans*
- 10:15 am **Break**
- 10:45 am **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Accessible Beekeeping: Improving Quality of Life...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Building Capacity for Farm Stress Resilient...*  
*Peachtree \* The LIFE Project – A Unique Partnership to Educate...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Making the Case for Your Veteran-Owned Business*
- 12:15 pm **Lunch and Speaker- Grand Ballroom**
- 1:45 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Obstacles in Designing AT within a Skid Loader...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Exploring AgrAbility Quality of Life Profiles*  
*Peachtree \* Discussion on Collaborating with Goodwill and...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Behind the Scenes of IL AgrAbility Ambassador Program*
- 2:40 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Assistive Technology for Hitching Equipment*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Protecting Your Operation's Most Important Asset...*  
*Peachtree \* PI Session*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Peas in a Pod: Similar but Different Models for Peer...*
- 3:40 pm **Break**
- 4:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Getting Down on the Farm: Assistive Devices for...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons with TBI...*  
*Peachtree \* International Panel*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Case Study: Working with the Client Assistance Program to Assist a Client When they are Denied by VR*

6:00 pm **Dinner, Keynote Address, and Auction**

### Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 am **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Creating Reliable Plans for DIY Assistive Technology*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Promoting the Physical and Psychological Wellbeing...*  
*Peachtree \* Cultivating a Peer and Mentorship Network in Your State*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Let's Moove: Movement and Self-Massage for Longevity...*
- 9:10 am **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Everyday Equipment or Assistive Technology?*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Traumatic Brain Injury in Rural Communities*  
*Peachtree \* Valuing the Economic Impacts of AgrAbility*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Disabled Farmer Adaptations to Diversified Organic...*
- 9:55 am **Break- Silent Auction ends**
- 10:25 am **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* De-stigmatizing Disability Within the Farming Community*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Conversations on Access to Lethal Means: CALM*  
*Peachtree \* AgrAbility & VR: Navigating Policies, Procedures, and...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Successful Transitions to Agriculture for Veterans...*  
*Outside \* Outdoor AT Show and Tell*
- 12:00 pm **Lunch Grand Ballroom**  
*Pick up Silent Auction items.*
- 1:30 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Indoor AT Show and Tell*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* A Novel Approach to Pain Management for Farmers...*  
*Peachtree \* Cultural Humility Panel: Cross Cultural Learning and...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network: ...*
- 2:40 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* And on This Farm He Had a ...What is That?: AT ...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Naloxone Training: Responding to Opioid Overdose*  
*Peachtree \* SRAP Panel Discussion on Taking the RESNA ATP...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Reaching new heights and expanding audiences by...*
- 3:40 pm **Break**
- 4:10 pm **Breakout Sessions**  
*Grand Ballroom 3 \* Piloting and Hacking DIY AT & Equipment for the...*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 1 \* Serving the Silent Sectors in Agriculture: AgrAbility for...*  
*Peachtree \* How to Develop Financial Sustainability for Your Org.*  
*Buckhead Ballroom 2 \* Thriving with Chronic Pain: Moving Beyond Coping...*

Dinner on your own

### Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am-4:30 pm **Offsite Tours**





# 2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### Schedule

#### Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Pre-Conference Sessions

Time	Room	Session
9:00 am - 3:30 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>Mental Health First Aid</b>  <i>Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez- NAP/ Purdue University and Diane Bales- University of GA</i></p> <p>MHFA is designed to increase knowledge and build skills to help someone who is experiencing mental health problems. The training includes information about signs and symptoms of mental health problems and provides opportunities to practice response skills for specific types of problems. Mental Health First Aiders are trained to provide informed, caring support and to suggest and connect people to community resources.</p> <p>The fee for this session is \$24. Lunch is on your own.</p> 
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Worksite Assessment, Secondary injury, and AT Selection</b>  <i>Bill Field and Steve Swain- NAP and Ned Stoller- NAP/MI AgrAbility</i></p> <p>This preconference professional development session will explore the process of conducting an agricultural worksite assessment, the potential for secondary injuries when using assistive technology on the farm, the selection of AT and modifications, and sources of AT and modifications. The session will also cover the contents of the updated Agricultural Worksite Assessment Tool for Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities. The fee for this session is \$25.00</p> 
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>New Staff Training</b>  <i>USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Staff and National AgrAbility Project (NAP) Staff from Purdue, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, Osteoarthritis Action Alliance, AgriSafe Network, and Colorado State University</i></p> <p>This session gives an overview of the AgrAbility Program for new staff members, those wanting a refresher, or those wishing to learn about AgrAbility. Some topics covered include the role of the National Project, resources available, evaluation procedures, and sources of help inside and outside AgrAbility. Participants will also have opportunities to network with one another and with staff from NIFA and NAP.</p>
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Offsite tour	<p><b>Sheperd Center Tour</b></p> <p>Shepherd Center is where people in need of personalized rehabilitation after severe neurological injury or illness find care and compassion to begin again. They specialize in the rehabilitation for patients with the most complex spinal cord and brain injuries, traumatic stroke, and other neurological conditions. \$50 Fee- Subject to change based on COVID protocols.</p>

**Special Interest Key**



Farmers/Ranchers



Veterans



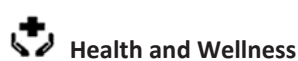
Assistive Technology









Health and Wellness

<p>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Grand Ballroom Pre-function area</p>	<p><b>Reception and Poster Session</b></p> <p><b>Posters being presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Affordable Flexible Robotics to Aid Farmers with Mobility Limitations: An Interview Approach to Understand Farmers’ Perspectives of Wearable Assistive Technology</b> by <i>Roberto A. Franco and Kim Niewolny- Virginia Tech and AgrAbility Virginia, Brianna Posadas, Satyajit Upasani, and Alexander Leonessa- Virginia Tech, and Divya Srinivasan- Clemson University</i></li> <li>• <b>In-Cab Combine Accessibility</b> by <i>Jake McAllister- Clemson University &amp; Clemson Extension</i></li> <li>• <b>Gender Differences in Health Conditions for Food Growers</b> by <i>Mary Thelander Hill, Patricia Siegel, and Marcy Rinaldi- University of New Mexico</i></li> <li>• <b>Using Agriculture Education as a Holistic Health Approach: An Innovative Model for Navigating the Transition from Military Service to Civilian Life</b> by <i>Robin Tutor Marcom- North Carolina Agromedicine Institute and Robert Elliott- Veteran’s Farm of NC</i></li> <li>• <b>Jesup Wagon 2.0 Strengthens Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Missouri AgrAbility Client Farmers</b> by <i>Karen Funkenbusch- University of Missouri and Mary Keeter- Lincoln University Cooperative Extension</i></li> <li>• <b>Improving the Health, Safety and Well-Being for Women Farmers by Adapting Farm Tools and Equipment</b> by <i>Karen Funkenbusch, Jianfeng Zhou, and Marcia Shannon- University of Missouri</i></li> <li>• <b>A Community-based Participatory Approach to Research on Health Equity and Social Vulnerability of Farm Workers and Agricultural Laborers in Virginia</b> by <i>David Smilnak, Dr. Kim Niewolny, and Roberto Franco- Virginia Tech</i></li> <li>• <b>Farmer Focus Project: Supporting Farmer Wellness and Behavioral Health on Guam and Micronesia</b> by <i>Kuan-Ju Chen, Tim de La Cruz and Harley Edeluchel, Jr- University of Guam and KristiAnna Whitman- Guam Behavioral Health &amp; Wellness</i></li> <li>• <b>Developing an Accessible Competency-Based Apprenticeship for New and Beginning Veteran Farmers</b> by <i>Sara Kidd- North Carolina State University</i></li> <li>• <b>Farmers’ Motivation for Learning and Developing New Skills</b> by <i>Dr. Suzanna Windon- The Pennsylvania State University</i></li> <li>• <b>Florida AgrAbility: Farmfield to Coastline</b> by <i>Lindsey Head, Tony Delisle, Serap Gorucu, Molly Lewis, and Shelby Thomas- FL AgrAbility</i></li> </ul>
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Special Interest Key



## Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

Time	Room	Session
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Grand Ballroom 1&2	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>Glen Raines- GA AgrAbility; Bill Field- NAP; JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes</b>
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Grand Ballroom 3	<b>Farming Like it's 2024, Equipment and Technologies for Disabled Farmers</b> <b>David Middleton and Karen Funkenbusch- University of MO and Susan Jaster- Lincoln University</b> Assistive technology (AT) can be anything bought or made that helps to increase the functional capabilities and independence of individuals who face limitations in each area of their lives. As technology continues to bring cutting edge equipment and innovation to today's agriculture, many items are suited to enhance production especially for farmers with disabilities. This session will highlight equipment suited to improve production, increase income, while putting fewer physical and mental demands on farmer. From autonomous tractors, robotic milkers, and robotic garden weeders to exoskeletons new technology can increase success for farmers with disabilities and changes lives in agriculture.  
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<b>Critical Conversations: Challenges for Service Providers in Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Farm Workers</b> <b>Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez- National AgrAbility Project and Esmeralda Mandujano- Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program</b> Farm workers experience numerous stressors and mental health challenges that are specific to this community. Over the past couple of years, mental health has increased as a priority in farm worker communities. This session will explore farm stress and mental health challenges among migrant/seasonal farmworkers. This session will also explore challenges for service providers in meeting the mental health needs of this community.  
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Peachtree	<b>Creating a Program to Educate OT's &amp; PT's on Rehabbing Farmers and Ranchers</b> <b>Emily Jacobson- Easterseals Nebraska &amp; NE AgrAbility</b> Many OTs & PTs do not have experience in farm culture, farm work & farm assistive technology. Nebraska holds a CEU course each year to educate them on farm culture, farm work, & farm AT. This presentation will break down what we do to prepare for the day, how we recruit OTs & PTs, what is educated on during the 8-hour day, a farm visit with an AgrAbility client & our state resources that may assist in these cases. OTs & PTs also go away with some treatment ideas to implement into practice.
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<b>Discussion on Organizations that Support Veterans in Agriculture</b> <b>Robert Elliott- The Veteran's Farm of NC, Inc., Dr. Crystal Kyle- USDA-NIFA, and Michael O'Gorman- Farmer Veteran</b> This presentation will bring together organizations that have opportunities for Veterans to learn about resourcing for them.  
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Grand Ballroom pre-function area	<b>Break</b>

### Special Interest Key



Farmers/Ranchers



Veterans







Assistive Technology



Health and Wellness









10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Accessible Beekeeping: Improving Quality of Life Through Therapy and Assistive Technology</b>  <b><i>Ned Stoller- NAP/MI AgrAbility, Joe Ricker- NAP, Valerie Carter- VA Medical Center, and Justin Ruger- Accessible Beekeeping</i></b></p> <p>Beekeeping can be very therapeutic for people with disabilities and veterans who are experiencing depression, social isolation, and anxiety. Assistive technologies are often necessary to accommodate low vision, mobility impairments, back injuries, and other medical impairments. This session will provide a good overview of accessible beekeeping techniques and equipment, details and tips for how to build your own hive lifter to save your back, and how to implement mindfulness practices as part of beekeeping education and about the benefits the Veterans in New Hampshire have experienced.</p>  
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Building Capacity for Farm Stress Resilient Communities: 2 State Approaches</b>  <b><i>Dee Jepsen- Ohio State University, Chris Zoller, Bridget Britton, Sarah Noggle, Jamie Dellifield, and Ken Martin- Ohio State University Extension and Jennifer Dunn and Benjamin Reeves- University of GA</i></b></p> <p>The Georgia team will discuss the Farm Stress Production Meeting Model (FSPM) and how the future well-being of Georgia farmers can be improved by developing healthy coping mechanisms and stress reduction techniques which can lead to a reduction in farm stress. This presentation will share the FSPM model from the rural health agent and a local agricultural agent.</p> <p>The Ohio State team will discuss the Farm Stress Certified program and how it is being used with licensed counselors to become more aware of agricultural stressors and is comparable to specialized training available for first responders and other front-line workers with unique job stressors. The goal is to help practitioners better serve clients living and working in rural and agricultural settings.</p> 
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>The LIFE Project – A Unique Partnership to Educate, Support, and Promote Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers in Agriculture</b>  <b><i>Ed Sheldon and Chuck Baldwin- NAP, John Jamerson- Legacy Farming &amp; Health Group, Darrell Anderson- Chef Joseph Kick Sauce, Tameka Peoples- Peoples Foundation, Joe Tuttle- Crooked Fork Land and Cattle, and Gabriel MontReynaud- Pangea Farms</i></b></p> <p>The Peoples Foundation, the Legacy Farming and Health Group (LFHG), and the National AgrAbility Project (NAP) comprise a partnership increasing awareness and utilization of USDA programs and services by socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. In 2019, with support from the USDA 2501 program, the partners created the Legacy Innovation Farming Economics Project (LIFE). Using a variety of outreach, including in-person and virtual programs, one-on-one consultation, and networking with various organizations, the team has reached thousands of farmers and aspiring agriculturalists, including youth, with technical assistance, training, and support. This presentation will spotlight LIFE Project programming efforts around the country such as annual 1890 land grant conferences, bi-monthly zoom meetings, and workshops. Specific projects highlighted will include Indiana Black Loam Conferences, Seed-2-Store agribusiness program, and aquaponics education efforts.</p> 
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Making the case for your Veteran-Owned Business</b>  <b><i>Holly Aker and Jennie Murphy- Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England</i></b></p> <p>Interested in starting or growing a business? Join us the Veterans Business Outreach Center for a business planning session and learn how to make the case for your business idea. This session will cover idea recognition, understanding your market, competitive analysis, and an introduction to business planning.</p>  
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Grand Ballroom 1&2	<p><b>Farmer Luncheon-</b> PHARM dog video and Laura Adams- speaker</p>

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Obstacles in Designing Assistive Technology within a Skid Loader for Low-Mobility Individuals</b>  <b>Ashley Bergman, Valentino Carriero, Alex Parsio, Bobby Bench, and Dr. Dee Jepsen- The Ohio State University</b></p> <p>The goal of this project, led by an Ohio State Capstone team, is to implement assistive technology into a skid loader to allow those restricted by low-mobility impairments to enter and exit safely and independently. This problem arises due to spatial limitations of the skid loader cab, restricting agricultural workers who require access to the machine. Assistive technology in this project would reduce the difficulty of entering and exiting the skid loader cab, minimize injury during use, and increase the quality of work and life for low-mobility individuals involved in agriculture.</p> 
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Exploring AgrAbility Quality of Life Profiles</b>  <b>Bob Fetch- CO State University and Brian French and Sarah Ulrich- WA State University</b></p> <p>Quality of life (QOL) is a multi-dimensional construct encompassing physical, psychological, existential, and social domains and aligns with the core vision of AgrAbility. Participants (N = 596) completed QOL assessments before and after participating in AgrAbility. We describe QOL through latent profile analysis (LPA) to identify profiles of the QOL domains. At time one, three profiles emerged characterized by low, medium, and high levels of psychological, existential, and social well-being, but a similar level of physical well-being. At time two, the profiles shifted with variability across QOL domains. Profile patterns before and after AgrAbility help unpack needs and program impact.</p>
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>Discussion on Collaborating with Non-Profits and Other Projects</b>  <b>JoBeth Rath and Tess McKeel- NAP/Goodwill of the Finger Lakes</b></p> <p>As funding stays the same and demands on services grow, collaboration is key! Join this unconferencing session and share ideas that have worked, those that fell flat, and brainstorm new opportunities that can expand your reach; increase your funding; provide additional supports to those you serve; or make something a little easier! Maybe a local partner has a great social media footprint you can piggyback on; potentially it is a partnership with a fraternity or sorority and their philanthropic efforts that becomes a fund-raiser for you; or maybe it is a partnership in serving your clients that allows you to do what you specialize in while someone else manages the rest. The potential is great, but with busy schedules, taking the opportunity to think about them is rare! Join us for this session of sharing and creating opportunities!</p>
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Behind the Scenes of Illinois AgrAbility Ambassador Program</b>  <b>Haley Jones and Josie Rudolphi- IL AgrAbility</b></p> <p>Serve, identify, and promote are the foundation of the Illinois AgrAbility Ambassador Program. Rally your community members, Extension colleagues, or Farm Service Agency contacts to advocate for AgrAbility in your state! Learn why Illinois AgrAbility implemented an ambassador program in Illinois, how it works, and how it is going. Gain the tools and behind the scenes knowledge to implement an ambassador program within your state.</p>
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Assistive Technology for Hitching Equipment</b>  <b>Ned Stoller- MI AgrAbility/NAP and Kyle Haney- GA AgrAbility</b></p> <p>Hooking up wagons in the field, hitching three-point implements in the shed, coupling hydraulic hoses, connecting PTO shafts, and latching loader buckets require physical strength and dexterity. This session will teach about commercial and farmer-made assistive technologies to help workers with disabilities hitch and unhitch equipment.</p> 

Special Interest Key



2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Protecting Your Operation's Most Important Asset: YOU!</b> <i>Darla Tyler-McSherry- Ask in Earnest Initiative</i></p> <p>Though positive changes are occurring in agriculture regarding mental health in terms of awareness, stigma, and access, significant challenges remain. Daily, farmers and ranchers must deal with several risk factors that can negatively impact their mental health and increase their risk for suicide. Participants will learn evidence-based strategies they can use to help protect their mental and physical health and enhance their resilience to weather the many challenges ag producers face.</p>  
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>PI Session</b> <b>Bill Field- NAP/Purdue University and Courtenay Simmons- USDA/NIFA</b></p> <p>USDA and NAP program leaders will meet with SRAP principal investigators for questions, answers, and discussion.</p>
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Peas in a Pod: Similar but Different Models for Peer Support</b> <i>Robin Tutor Marcom- NC Agromedicine Institute and Robert Elliott- The Veteran Farm of NC</i></p> <p>Participants will be introduced to three similar but different models of peer support currently being used in North Carolina to reach farmers and farm families including Veteran farmers. Rationale and process behind development of each model will be shared as well as training, technical assistance and recordkeeping. Positive outcomes and concerns associated with peer support will be shared along with strategies for evaluation and follow-up.</p>  
3:40 pm - 4:00 pm	Grand Ballroom Pre-function area	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Getting Down on the Farm: Assistive Devices for Physical and Mobility Impairments</b> <i>Jennifer Cunningham- STAR Center, Inc. and Kim Lilley- TN Technology Access Program</i></p> <p>Due to the physical demands of farming, accidents, injuries, and aging can take a toll on the individual's body. Assistive devices can be utilized to support these limitations and allow the farmer to remain an active participant on his/her property. Join us to explore solutions for equipment modification, farm mobility, and general physical impairments to keep the farm moving.</p>  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons with TBI in Rural Areas</b> <i>Brick Johnstone- Shepherd Center, Maureen Cunningham- Brain Injury Association of MO, and Karen Funkenbusch- MO AgrAbility</i></p> <p>Presentation reviews the issues that impact employment outcomes of individuals with TBI, as well as previous and current NIDILRR-funded research projects that aim to improve TBI-related employment outcomes for persons in rural areas. Findings from the previous Missouri TBI Model System Center, in partnership with Missouri AgrAbility, are reviewed to identify the most effective predictors of successful employment for underserved populations (i.e., rural residence, race, gender, concomitant disabilities). The vocational rehabilitation interventions currently being investigated as part of the Georgia Model Brain Injury System are also reviewed to illustrate current vocational rehabilitation interventions for persons with TBI in rural spaces.</p>

**Special Interest Key**



4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Peachtree	<b>International Panel</b> Learn how farmers with disabilities are being served around the world. Specific case studies will be presented and overviews of how rehabilitation services are provided will be addressed. This session will be especially relevant to folks who are interested in an international dimension of rehabilitation programs for rural and farm families.
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<b>Case Study: Working with the Client Assistance Program to Assist a Client When they are Denied by Vocational Rehabilitation</b> <i>Rhonda Miller and Randall Bagley- UT AgrAbility</i> An AgrAbility of Utah client who raises sheep and is paraplegic was denied a recommended track chair by the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation. AgrAbility staff felt strongly that the client needed a track chair to continue in his chosen occupation. This presentation details the process and steps used to work with Vocational Rehabilitation and the Client Assistance Program in the Disability Law Center to have his denial overturned.
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Grand Ballroom 1&2	<b>Banquet Dinner, Keynote Address by Mike Reynolds- GA AgrAbility client, and Auction with Perry Walden- Auctioneer</b>

Special Interest Key



Farmers/Ranchers



Veterans








Assistive Technology



Health and Wellness

## Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

Time	Room	Session
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Creating Reliable Plans for DIY Assistive Technology</b>  <i>Ned Stoller- MI AgrAbility/NAP and Jeff Kratochwill- WI AgrAbility</i></p> <p>This session will discuss AgrAbility creating reliable peer reviewed plans for do-it-yourself (DIY) agricultural assistive technology. Do you use YouTube to learn about DIY projects? Is that a reliable source of information that produces safe and effective results? The MWPS (Midwest Plan Service) is a university-based cooperative distributing peer-reviewed farm and equipment plans.</p>  
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Promoting the Physical and Psychological Wellbeing of AgrAbility Clients</b>  <i>Chad Reznicek- CO AgrAbility and Robert Fetsch, Julie Elliot, Kirtsen Wulfsberg, and Jim Kuemmerle- CO State University</i></p> <p>Rooted in Quality-of-Life research, the connection between physical and psychological domains is well established. Increased understanding of the interplay between these two domains can help us to better connect, engage, and promote resiliency with clients facing adversity and limitations. We will explore practical applications of the mind/body connection through research sharing, activities, and participant feedback to develop strategies in addressing the wholistic needs of AgrAbility clients.</p> 
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Peachtree	<p><b>Cultivating a Peer and Mentorship Network in Your State</b>  <i>Laura Akgerman, Dee Jepsen, Rachel Jarman, Randy Joseph- OH AgrAbility, Kane Lewis-The Ohio State University and Dr. Cheryl Grenwelge and Makenzie Thomas- TX AgrAbility</i></p> <p>Peer-to-Peer Networks are an important part of State and Regional AgrAbility Program (SRAP) services. Learn how to form a peer network, train and encourage mentors, and manage different groups (farmers and/or veterans) across your state – addressing differences in farming, cultural, regional and geographic differences. Bring your ideas, experiences, challenges, and questions.</p>
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Let's Mooove: Movement and Self-Massage for Longevity &amp; Productivity on the Farm</b>  <i>Antonia Small- ME AgrAbility</i></p> <p>You wouldn't let a tractor (boat/chainsaw), go without maintenance, would you? Acquire a simple set of skills in this 60-minute session that will provide you with tools to care for your body every day. Built around your work day and tasks, and in as little as few minutes each hour, you can begin using mobility and stability exercises to cultivate strength and flexibility for the long haul or harvest. Practices can be adapted for standing or seated, all ages and skill levels, farmers and staff.</p> 
9:10 am - 9:55 am	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Everyday Equipment or Assistive Technology?</b>  <i>Mason Dean- GA AgrAbility</i></p> <p>This session will give an overview of various cases in Georgia where the correct assistive technology for farmers were items that were commonly marketed as general agricultural equipment. We will share justifications used to qualify it as assistive technologies.</p>  
9:10 am - 9:55 am	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Traumatic Brain Injury in Rural Communities</b>  <i>Jill Daugherty- Center for Disease Control and Prevention</i></p> <p>A traumatic brain injury, or TBI, is an injury that affects how the brain works. Research has found that Americans living in rural areas have an increased risk of sustaining a TBI, and have worse outcomes after a TBI, than their urban counterparts. This session will outline why rural residents may be at increased risk and identify potential strategies to decrease this risk.</p>

9:10 am - 9:55 am	Peachtree	<p><b>Valuing the Economic Impacts of AgrAbility</b> <i>Rebecca Hill- CO AgrAbility</i></p> <p>The Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility project is an Agricultural Economist with a specialty in conducting Economic Impact Analysis. In our most recent AgrAbility NIFA proposal Colorado added an objective of framing and Economic Impact study for AgrAbility to communicate these impacts to stakeholders and funders. This session will lay the groundwork on Economic Impact assessment and how other SRAPs can partner in this effort.</p>
9:10 am - 9:55 am	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Disabled Farmer Adaptations to Diversified Organic Farming Operation in Maui</b> <i>Rob Bence- Hawai'i Sustainable Farms</i></p> <p>Presentation on my experience as a severely disabled farmer in Maui and my work with AgrAbility, VR and my OT. Other support and resources for farming with a disability and ideas to help network disabled farmers to bring services to states without an AgrAbility program and how to expand to have services available here to help local farmers that may not know about the program will be discussed. Farming choices made to help maximize returns and USDA programs to farm without large capital investment.</p> 
9:55 am - 10:25 am	Grand Ballroom Pre-function area	<b>Break</b>
10:25 am - 11:55 am	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>De-Stigmatizing Disability within the Farming Community</b> <i>Tony Delisle- Center for Independent Living of North Central FL and FL AgrAbility Program, Lindsey Head and Joseph Mixson- FL AgrAbility, Jeff Kratochwill- WI AgrAbility, and Rachel Jarman- OH AgrAbility</i></p> <p>Many farmers are not accessing and utilizing AgrAbility services and other resources because of stigmas surrounding disability. Thus, disability stigma is: (1) preventing farmers from getting the assistance they need; (2) impacting a farmer's capacity to successfully work throughout their lifetime; (3) leading to poor health outcomes (stigma is associated with increased stress and diminished mental health); and (4) significantly decreasing their ability to live independently. Understanding the cultural normative attitudes and beliefs about disability among farmers is critical in de-stigmatizing disability within this community. This will lead to effective strategies for increasing access and utilization of AgrAbility services by farmers.</p>
10:25 am - 11:55 am	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Conversations on Access to Lethal Means: CALM</b> <i>Tara Haskins- AgriSafe</i></p> <p>CALM is a suicide prevention training that encourages safe storage of firearms and medications during a suicidal crisis. Temporarily putting time and distance between a suicidal person and lethal means saves lives. CALM is collaborative and welcoming to both gun and non-gun owners. CALM is designed to be an effective part of suicide prevention and is neither anti-gun nor anti-medication. AgriSafe's CALM training uses an agricultural case scenario for discussion.</p> 
10:25 am - 11:55 am	Peachtree	<p><b>AgrAbility &amp; VR: Navigating Policies, Procedures, and People</b> <i>Paul Jones- NAP, Steve Etheridge- NAP Consultant, Randy Joseph- OH AgrAbility/Easterseals Redwood, and Jason Barber- Tennessee AgrAbility Client and VR Customer</i></p> <p>AgrAbility projects rely heavily on state vocational rehabilitation systems for providing their clients with assistive technology, farmstead modifications, and other essential services. However, as with any bureaucratic organization, there can be challenges in successfully accessing services. Different SRAPs have different experiences and histories with their state VR agencies, as do different AgrAbility clients. This session will provide overviews of the VR process and the AgrAbility/VR Working Group's activities plus VR-related experiences shared by SRAP staff members and clients</p>

**Special Interest Key**



Farmers/Ranchers









Veterans






Assistive Technology




Health and Wellness

10:25 am - 11:55 am	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Successful Transitions to Agriculture for Veterans with Disabilities</b>  <b>Mike and Stephanie Trost- Pokedot Hops and Garden/Cabins, Mark and Kate Bowen- Meadowdale Farm, and Iteago Felton 3 T Farms</b></p> <p>For fifteen years now, National AgrAbility has worked, both on its own and in partnership with the Farmer Veteran Coalition, to help veterans successfully transition to farming and ranching careers. This talk will honor and feature a panel of veterans from CA, GA, and TN who have overcome serious injury and have successfully made the transition to a viable career in agriculture. We will look at what helped them overcome the obstacles of their specific related disability.</p>
10:25 am - 11:55 am	Outside	<p><b>Outdoor AT Show and Tell</b></p> <p>This session will be a show-and-tell with various suppliers of assistive technologies for outdoor equipment applicable to farmers and ranchers with disabilities. </p>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Grand Ballroom 1&2	<p><b>Lunch, Speaker Laura Adams, and pick up silent auction items</b></p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Indoor AT Show and Tell</b></p> <p>This session will be a show-and-tell with various suppliers of assistive technologies applicable to farmers and ranchers with disabilities. </p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>A Novel Approach to Pain Management For Farmers, Including Pilot Study Results</b>  <b>Brie Weisman- ME AgrAbility and James Wall- University of Southern Maine</b></p> <p>Farmers tend to consider pain to be an accepted part of their work regardless of the consequences. Maine AgrAbility worked with an OTD student from USM on a study of the Managing Pain on the Farm, a Pain Tool for farmers. 36 farmers participated in a mixed method study to determine if the tool would help farmers have an increased awareness of bodily pain so that they would be more likely to address it and not lose productivity on the farm. Farmers were provided with the tool for identifying, recognizing, and managing their pain. </p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>Cultural Humility Panel: Cross Cultural Learning and Accessibility</b>  <b>Esmeralda Mandujano- UC Davis California AgrAbility and Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez- NAP</b></p> <p>Cultural humility has been described as a step beyond cultural competence. Discover practical steps for cross cultural learning and accessibility in AgrAbility servicing. AgrAbility staff and support partners share their personal and professional experiences exemplifying cultural humility. Panelists engage in a discussion around culture as we typically know it and beyond to include farm culture.</p>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network: updates from the West, North Central, Northeast, and South Regions</b>  <b>Don McMoran- WRASAP, Josie Rudolphi- NCFRSAC, Alexandria Ward- Farm Aid/NEFRSAN and Tesha Humphrey- SAgE</b></p> <p>This session will describe activities of the four regional USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Networks (West, North Central, Northeast, and South) from 2020-2023 and facilitate a panel discussion about priorities and activities moving forward. </p>
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>And on This Farm, He Had a ... What is THAT???: Assistive Technology Solutions to Support Vision and Hearing Loss</b>  <b>Lindsey B. Wilkerson and Jennifer Cunningham- STAR Center, and Jason Barber- Self-Employed Farmer/TN AgrAbility Customer</b></p> <p>Vision and hearing loss, whether due to accident, illness, or aging, can pose barriers to farm life. However, this does not equal the end of farming. With the addition of assistive technology to the daily routine, farmers can remain active in their chosen livelihoods. Join us as we explore the types of devices and software that can provide support for these types of sensory losses and help these professionals continue to achieve their goals.  </p>

2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Naloxone Training: Responding to Opioid Overdose</b> <i>Tara Haskins- AgriSafe</i></p> <p>This session is designed to prepare communities and non-medical public and safety professionals to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. Participants will learn the warning signs of opioid overdose and how to intervene safely using naloxone.</p> 
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>SRAP Panel Discussion on Taking the RESNA AT Fundamentals Course</b> <i>Julie LaJeunesse- NMTAP/NM AgrAbility, Ned Stoller- MI AgrAbility/NAP, Brie Weisman- ME AgrAbility, Laura Akgerman- OH AgrAbility, and Lindsey Head- FL AgrAbility</i></p> <p>In our panel discussion, AgrAbility SRAPS Michigan, Maine, Florida, Ohio, and New Mexico will talk about their collaborative experience taking a four week-long RESNA AT Fundamentals course. The course prepares students to take the Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) examination, which upon certification, recognizes demonstrated competence in analyzing the needs of consumers with disabilities, assisting in the selection of appropriate AT for the consumer or AgrAbility client, and providing training in the use of chosen devices. The SRAPs will discuss the pros and cons of the course, becoming an ATP, and the applicability to AgrAbility and its clients.</p> 
2:40 pm - 3:40 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 2	<p><b>Reaching New Heights and Expanding Audiences by Promoting AgrAbility</b> <i>Robert Hagevoort and Sonja Koukel- NM AgrAbility</i></p> <p>The New Mexico AgrAbility Project (NMAP) was approached in the fall of 2022 by the NM Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico, with the proposal to partner with the museum for a interactive exhibit telling the story of AgrAbility both at the national level as well as the state level: what it is that NAP and NMAP do, why the program is critical and relevant, and what impacts the program has in agriculture and society</p>
3:40 pm - 4:10 pm	Grand Ballroom Pre-function area	<b>Break</b>
4:10 pm - 4:55 pm	Grand Ballroom 3	<p><b>Piloting and Hacking DIY AT &amp; Equipment for the Sustainable or Regenerative Small Farmer</b> <i>Crystal Cook Marshall and James Fry- NCAT and Robert Elliott- Veteran Farms of NC</i></p> <p>Come learn how a DIY chicken tractor was hacked so that Veterans did not have to bend, led to identifying 12 gaps to pilot and hack a range of sustainable farming technologies. This pilot will build a cadre of in-state professionals working on low-cost low-entry models assessed both during the builds and their use by an occupational therapist. Passing the pre-approval for a Southern SARE grant, this project has two nonprofit partners, eight farmer partners, and private and university partners.</p> 
4:10 pm - 4:55 pm	Buckhead Ballroom 1	<p><b>Serving the Silent Sectors in Agriculture: AgrAbility for Those who Fish and Harvest Timber</b> <i>Art Nash- University of Alaska/AK AgrAbility</i></p> <p>When assisting commercial fishing, mariculture, and old growth timber workers in coastal states the agencies and support organizations are different than with field farm and ranch workers. Seasonality, repetitious duties, and tools for commercial fishing/timbering tend to produce somewhat different injuries and referrals. Workers' networks tend to be different and getting the word out about AgrAbility is investigative. Interactive discussion and shared contacts will be included.</p>
4:10 pm - 4:55 pm	Peachtree	<p><b>How to Develop Financial Sustainability for Your Organization</b> <i>Kent Scheske- NAP Advisory Team</i></p> <p>Developing financial sustainability to support your organization's work and mission is a critical part of successful programming. This workshop will focus on practical and implementable approaches to sustain and grow your programs. Learn the basics of fundraising and development, and how these principles can be applied to your situation. We will also discuss the different types, sources, and uses of funds that will help diversify revenues and strengthen the overall health and well-being of your organization.</p>



4:10 pm - 4:55 pm	Grand Ballroom 2	<p><b>Thriving with Chronic Pain: Moving beyond coping with pain to living a life that feels meaningful, joyful, and rewarding.</b></p> <p><b><i>Kirsten R. Ambrose- Osteoarthritis Action Alliance</i></b></p> <p>Behavioral strategies and coping skills are effective and important for managing joint pain and other chronic pain conditions. But what if you could go beyond coping with pain to thriving? What if you could increase your resilience? Find your joy? Quality of life declines when pain limits us to only those activities that must be done while pushing away those activities that we enjoy and that keep us feeling connected. In this session, we will explore the influence of thoughts and emotions on pain and learn strategies to increase positivity and resilience toward thriving despite pain.</p> 
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**Dinner on your own tonight**

**Special Interest Key**



Farmers/Ranchers



Veterans



Assistive Technology



Health and Wellness

## Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

\$75 Fee, lunch included on full day tours. Tours subject to change.

### OPTION 1 (Full Day Tour) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tour a Dirt Dog Manufacturing plant, a mushroom operation, and sheep farm run by an AgrAbility client with a spinal cord injury. \$75 fee

### OPTION 2 – (Full Day Tour) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tour a family-run farm, that also has an agritourism component; UGA Griffin Campus and an orchard. \$75 fee

### OPTION 3 (Full Day Tour with ½ day drop off) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tour a few urban farms around Atlanta with a drop off at the hotel before lunch. After lunch you will tour the CDC. \$75 fee for full day, \$30 for half day (lunch not included).

All tour participants should meet in the Ballroom Pre-function Area at 7:45 am.



Farmers/Ranchers



Veterans



Assistive Technology



Health and Wellness

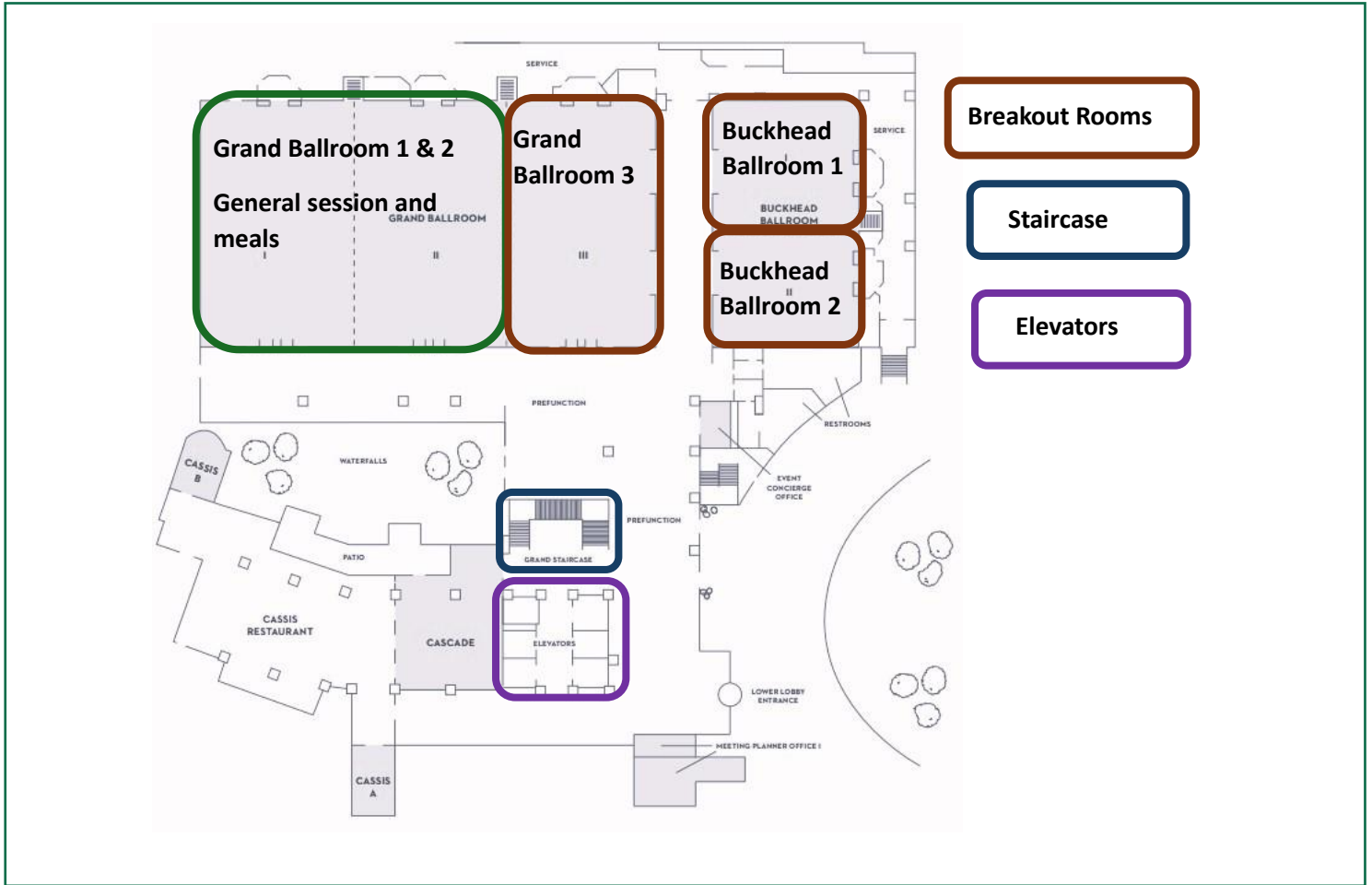
# Dedication



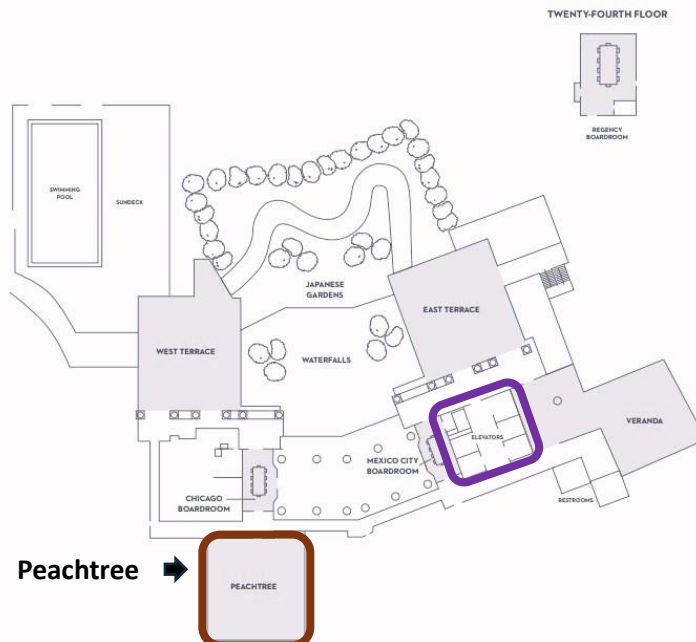
Longtime Georgia AgrAbility Co-Director Rebecca (Becky) Brightwell passed away peacefully and went to be with her Lord and Savior on October 9th, 2023. Becky was instrumental in the success and growth of the Georgia AgrAbility Program. She always claimed that AgrAbility was her passion project because it combined her family's agricultural heritage with her love of assistive technology to make improvements in the quality of life of Georgia farmers. She was thrilled to be hosting NTW in Georgia this year, and we dedicate this conference to her memory.

# Grand Hyatt Maps

## Lower Lobby Level



## Third Floor- Garden Level





## ***Special Thanks to Our Exhibitors***

***AgrAbility in Georgia***

***AgrAbility Virginia***

***AgriSafe Network***

***At Ease Orchard***

***Farm Aid***

***LifeLyfts by Life Essentials***

***Missouri AgrAbility***

***National AgrAbility Project***

***National Center for Appropriate Technology***

***Ohio AgrAbility***

***PTO Link***

***Southern SARE***

***The Standing Company***

***US Patent and Trademark Office***

***Western Region Agriculture Stress Assistance Program***

# Thanks to the 2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop Planning Committee

## **National AgrAbility Project**

Bill Field  
Paul Jones  
Steve Swain  
Chuck Baldwin  
Joe Ricker  
JoBeth Rath  
Tess McKeel

## **Georgia AgrAbility**

Glen Raines  
Kyle Haney  
Mason Dean  
Stephanie Wallace  
Whitney Ostrander

## **AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians**

Abbie Spackman

## **AgrAbility of Utah**

Randall Bagley

## **AgriSafe**

Abbie Kahrs

## **Colorado AgrAbility**

Candiss Leathers  
Ashley Buchanan  
Ellis Vidmar

## **Hoosier Uplands**

Linda Tarr

## **Missouri AgrAbility**

Karen Funkenbusch  
Maureen Cunningham

## **Nebraska AgrAbility**

Emily Jacobson  
Susan Harris (retired)

## **Ohio AgrAbility**

Laura Akgerman

## **Tennessee AgrAbility**

Eileen Legualt

## **Washington AgrAbility**

Alyssa Wade  
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