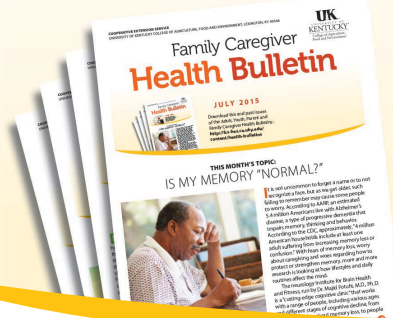


# Family Caregiver Health Bulletin



**MARCH 2016**

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<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/health-bulletins>

## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: RURAL CAREGIVING

Caregiving is both a challenging and rewarding position in any given situation. But rural caregivers are often confronted with additional barriers due to the unique needs and disabilities of those who work in agriculture combined with geographic location and gaps in or lack of service delivery.

AgrAbility is a national program that helps educate and provide assistance to farmers, ranchers and other workers in agricultural settings when conditions jeopardize their productivity, mental and physical health and overall quality of life. To help prevent farm families from giving up or feeling overwhelmed by temporary or permanent limitations, the AgrAbility team members, located in most states throughout the country, will help you or a friend or family member maximize ability to remain active in the agricultural industry.

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# ***AgrAbility is a national program that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers and other workers in agricultural settings.***

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Farming accidents do not just involve amputations or back injuries. Some of the more common agricultural conditions that can cause disability include:

- Spinal cord injuries/paralysis
- Amputations
- Arthritis
- Back impairments and pain
- Behavioral health issues
- Brain injuries
- Respiratory problems
- Visual impairments
- Hearing impairments



AgrAbility team members recognize that a farming accident does not just affect the individual, but that families and communities may also suffer. As a result, Kentucky AgrAbility also focuses on “farm women, older farmers, farm children, minorities and limited resource farmers.”

## **Kentucky services include:**

- “Provide direct on-farm technical assistance, such as modifying tools, equipment and machinery.”
- “Facilitate networking among farmers with disabilities to share ideas, experiences and support.”
- “Help find financial support for assistive technology and farm equipment modifications.”
- “Network with national organizations that provide assistive technology for farmers with disabilities.”
- “Access and make recommendations to make homes and farm buildings more accessible.”
- “Refer individuals to appropriate agencies and organizations that best meet their needs.”

- “Train rural healthcare professionals and providers on Rehabilitation Technology in Agriculture.”
- “Participate in rural safety, injury prevention, and disability awareness and education programs.”

If you are a farmer or are associated with a farm family living in Kentucky and need assistance, contact the Kentucky AgrAbility Project at [www.ca.uky.edu/ANR/Agrability/NewAgrabilityWebsite](http://www.ca.uky.edu/ANR/Agrability/NewAgrabilityWebsite) or call toll free at (800) 333-2814.

If you want more information about the National AgrAbility project or would like to contact a project member in a different state, the national website is <http://www.agrability.org/contact-lists/index.cfm> or call toll free at 1-800-825-4264.

## **Additional information for rural caregiving in Kentucky can be found at:**

- **Rural Caregiving National Website**  
<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~bng/Caregiving>
- **The NCIL Directory of Independent Living Centers listing for Kentucky**  
<http://www.virtualcil.net/cils/docs/ky.html>
- **Kentucky Area Agencies on Aging**  
<http://chfs.ky.gov/dhss/das/>
- **The DRM Regional Resources Directory: Kentucky**  
(list of disability resources in Kentucky, including a partial list of independent living centers)  
<http://www.disabilityresources.org/KENTUCKY.html>

## **SOURCES:**

- Amy F. Hosier, Extension Specialist for Family Life References: AgrAbility. (2013). National AgrAbility Project. Retrieved January 19, 2016 from <http://www.agrability.org/index.cfm>
- Kentucky AgrAbility. (2016). About Kentucky AgrAbility. Retrieved January 19, 2016 from <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/ANR/Agrability/NewAgrabilityWebsite/about.php>

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**Health Bulletin**

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