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USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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Missouri and Pennsylvania AgrAbility Assist Diverse Farm & Ranch Populations to Promote Self-Employment Opportunities in Agriculture

Results

Missouri and Pennsylvania AgrAbility Projects collaboratively shared and produced culturally appropriate diverse health, safety and wellness resources to meet the individualized needs of their agricultural operations. Tailored resources are critical for self-employment in production agriculture if the intended outcome is to help farmers and ranchers with disabilities remain healthy and prevent secondary injuries.



Introduction

Agriculture-related occupations present a unique situation for diverse AgrAbility customers (African American, Amish, Hmong, Mennonite and Spanish-Speaking) and rural farm and ranch families (beginning farmers, non-traditional minorities, veterans, and women in agriculture). There are very few occupations that offer individuals the opportunity to live, work, and play on the same piece of land. With a recently acquired disability, chronic health condition or disorder, AgrAbility customers face many self-employment challenges.

Description

The AgrAbility program is designed to assist farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers with disabilities or health conditions by providing resources and support services they need to live independently and to continue working in or return to production agriculture.

Methods

Steps to achieve the intended outcome of successful farmer and rancher self-employment:

- Conduct on-site farmstead assessments to identify specific self-employment problem areas.
- Assist farmers in locating appropriate education, training, outreach and services that are culturally appropriate, linguistically accurate, and literacy-level sensitive.
- Recommend safe and reliable technologies to avoid secondary injuries.
- Facilitate face-to-face presentations, printable resources, social media campaigns or recorded presentations about farming, farm-related occupations, or pursuing new farming opportunities and farm enterprises.
- Work directly with providers to coordinate support services to help farmers, ranchers and families realize there are viable self-employment opportunities for individuals who engage in farming or farm-related occupations.