

National Disability Institute Assistive Technology Loan Program Assistance and Technology for Farmers

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Submitting Questions or Technical Difficulties

For Q&A: Please use the Q&A box to send any questions you have during the webinar to Laurie Schaller.

If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing lschaller@ndi-inc.org.

National Disability Institute (NDI)

- We envision a society in which people with disabilities have the same opportunities to achieve financial stability and independence as people without disabilities.
- Our Mission is to collaborate and innovate to build a better financial future for people with disabilities and their families.

NDI's AT Loan Program

NDI received grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration;

Our services include outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or programs that can help people get assistive technology.

The contents of this orientation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any technology, accommodation or accessible feature that can help a person perform an action that a person who does not have a disability, can typically do.

- AT ranges from apps, hearing and vision aids, smart home systems, smart phones, stair climbers, standing wheelchairs, home or vehicle modifications, adaptive recreational equipment, accessible housing pods, business equipment, agricultural, farming equipment and environmental adaptations and more.
- [Our site spotlights new AT equipment and products](#)

Orientation Welcome

Today we spotlight AgrAbility and the Farm Partners Program at Bassett Healthcare Network, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health s (NYCAMH) services and supports for farmers, ranchers, agricultural and agritourism workers and hobbyists.

We will discuss:

Ways to ensure a safe working environment;

Accommodations and assistive technology assessments;

Stories from the field;

AT Resources and Information;

Funding options to purchase or refinance AT devices, equipment and environmental modifications. Farm Partners Program at Bassett Healthcare Network, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH).

Introducing Tess McKeel:



Tess McKeel

National AgrAbility Project Partner

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org

1.888.859.1606

<https://www.goodwillfingerlakes.org/services>



*AgrAbility 101 – An introduction to the
Who, What, When, Why and Where of
AgrAbility*

*Tess McKeel -National AgrAbility Project Partners,
Goodwill of the Finger Lakes*

Description of the AgrAbility Program



AgrAbility is a program sponsored by USDA-NIFA that provides assistance to farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers and their family members impacted by disability, injury or chronic conditions.

Program funding began with the 1991 Farm Bill, with 8 states funded.

Funding for the AgrAbility Program



Grant funding is currently provided by USDA-NIFA for:

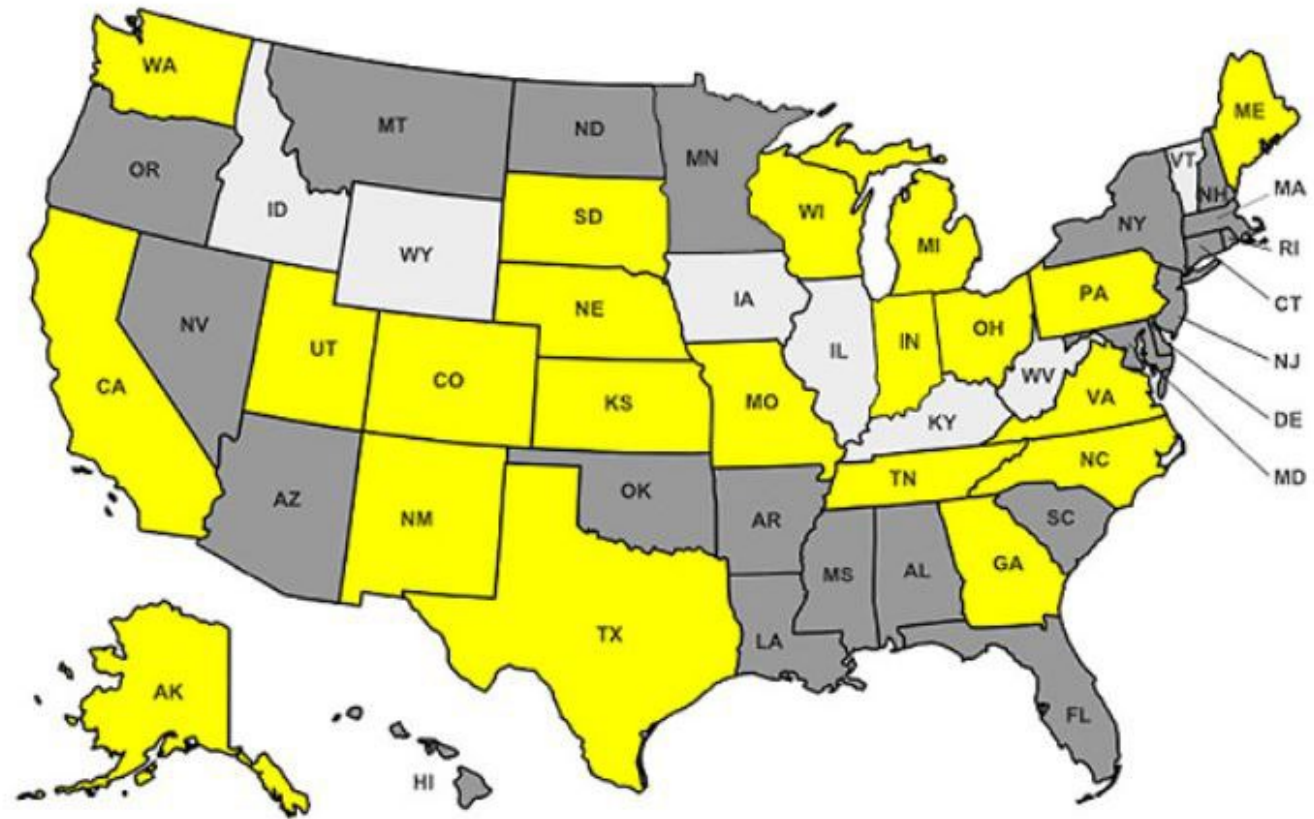
One National AgrAbility Project (NAP)




21 State / Regional AgrAbility Projects (SRAPs)

(on a four-year cycle)



Map of funded and affiliate projects in the U.S.



Key					
	State/Regional Project		Affiliate Project		No Project

AgrAbility Project Partners



Who is involved in an AgrAbility Project?

Grant funding is available to Land Grant University Cooperative Extension Services who must partner with at least one non-profit disability organization.

National AgrAbility Project :

Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes

OsteoArthritis Action Alliance

Colorado State University

Washington State University

AgrAbility vision statement



The vision of AgrAbility is to enable a high-quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

Through education and assistance, AgrAbility helps to eliminate (or at least minimize) obstacles that block success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.

Who AgrAbility serves



AgrAbility serves individuals in production agriculture who are limited by any type of physical, cognitive or illness-related impairment.

amputation | arthritis | back impairment | hearing impairment | developmental disability | mental health concerns | respiratory disease | spinal cord injury | stroke | traumatic brain injury | visual impairment



Samples of types of agriculture that clients can be involved in.

Just as disability is wide continuum, agriculture is also:

- *Row crops: corn, soy, wheat, cotton, etc.*
- *Ranching*
- *Sheep and goats*
- *Dairy*
- *Produce, including organic*
- *Orchards*
- *Agritourism*
- *Niche markets, like llamas, herbs, etc.*
- *Floriculture*
- *Aquaculture*
- *Hydroponics*
- *Aquaponics*

Just to name a few

AgrAbility Services



AgrAbility Services are Consumer-Centered and may include the following:

- *On site assessments to identify barriers*
- *Recommendation of appropriate assistive technologies; adaptive tools; modified work practices*
- *Access to informational materials*
- *Educational and training opportunities through conferences, workshops and online programs*
- *Referral to appropriate service providers*
- *Peer support opportunities*



Special Responsibilities of the NAP

- Provide support to the state and regional AgrAbility Projects
 - Training
 - Resources
 - Consultations with NAP specialists
- Provide limited direct services to customers in states without AgrAbility projects



AgrAbility does not provide direct funding or equipment, however, will work to connect clients with the appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and other funding sources.





What if your state does not have an AgrAbility Project?

- You can still get technical support from the National AgrAbility Project
- Resources available at www.agrability.org
- Cooperative Extension
- State AT Act Projects
- State VR Agency
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Centers for Independent Living
- USDA- FSA, NRCS
- Encourage your state's land-grant university(s) to apply for an AgrAbility grant

Key NAP Personnel (slide 1 of 3)



- **Bill Field, Project Director**
 - Founder of Breaking New Ground
 - Overall project oversight
 - Liaison with USDA



- **Paul Jones, Project Manager**
 - Management of daily activities
 - Resource development



Key NAP Personnel (slide 2 of 3)



- **Steve Swain, Assistive Technology Specialist**
 - Toolbox process
 - Liaison with RESNA
 - AT advice to SRAPs and individuals in non-SRAP states



- **Ned Stoller, Assistive Technology Specialist**
 - Toolbox process
 - AT advice to SRAPs and individuals in non-SRAP States



Key NAP Personnel (slide 3 of 3)



- **Chuck Baldwin, Special Populations Outreach Coordinator & Demographic Data Specialist**
 - Networking with 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions, Latino farmworker organizations, others
 - Coordinates demographic data collection process

- **Joe Ricker, Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
 - Outreach to veterans with disabilities interested in agriculture and organizations that serve them



**For more information including online training,
recorded webinars and the AT Toolbox:
*www.agrability.org***



Introducing Heather Chauncey:



**Heather Chauncey, LCAT
Clinical Case Manager
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health an Affiliate of
Basset Healthcare Network**

Heather.Chauncey@bassett.org

607.547.6023, ext. 2206

www.nycamh.org



Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health



NYCAMH

Enhancing
agricultural and rural health
by preventing and treating occupational
injury and illness.

Heather Chauncey; Clinical Case Manager & Therapist



- **What is NYCAMH?**
- **What kind of agricultural support & services does NYCAMH provide?**



Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health



NYCAMH (1)



On This
Week's Podcast:

Director

*New York Center for
Agricultural Medicine
and Health*

Julie Sorensen



NYCAMH Director Podcast



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New York Center for Agricultural
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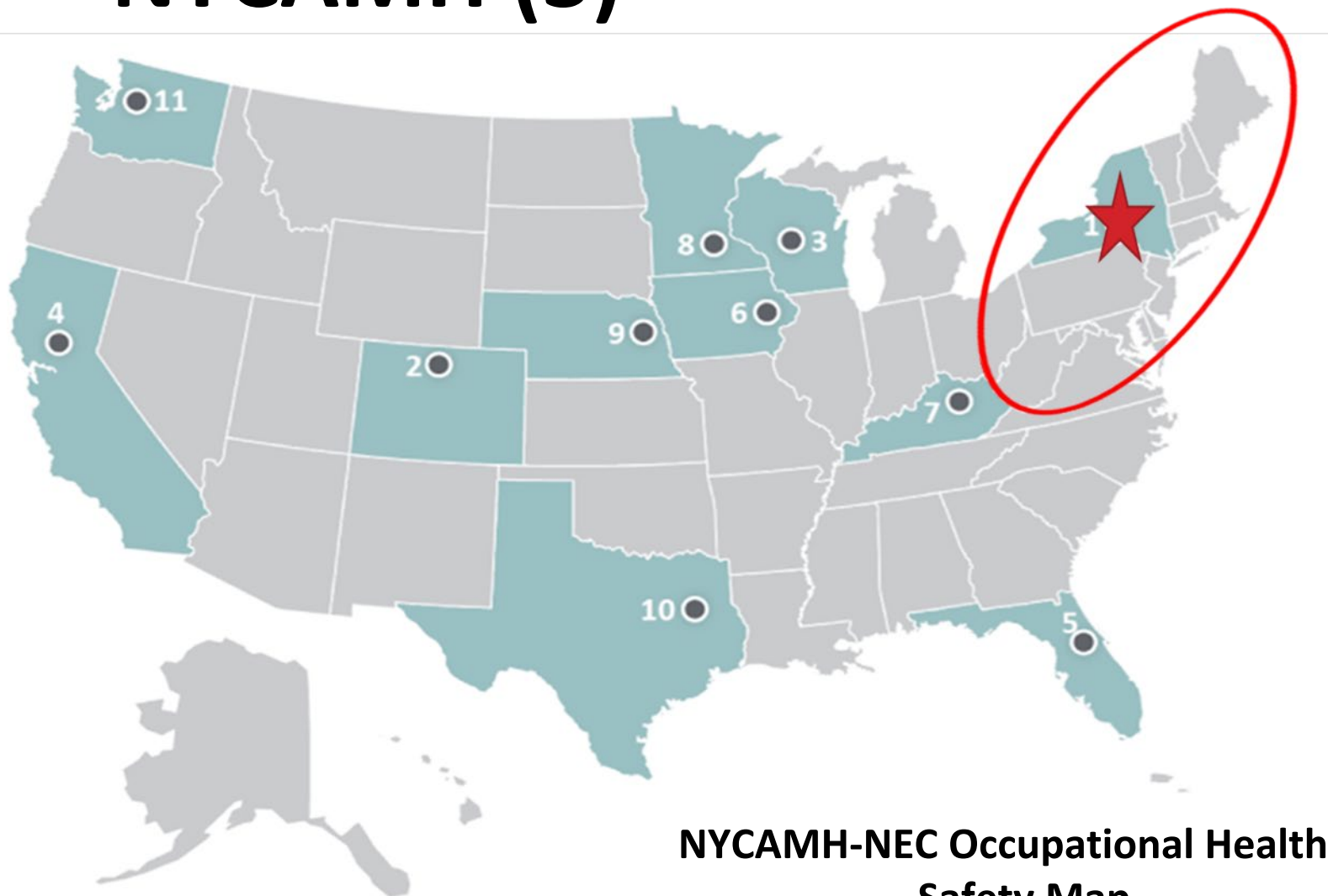
NYCAMH (2)



NEC & NYCAMH



NYCAMH (3)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety
(Bassett Healthcare Network) | 7. Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention
(University of Kentucky) |
| 2. High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
(Colorado State University) | 8. Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center
(University of Minnesota) |
| 3. National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety
(National Farm Medicine Center) | 9. Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
(University of Nebraska Medical Center) |
| 4. Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
(University of California, Davis) | 10. Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education
(University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler) |
| 5. Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
(University of Florida) | 11. Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center
(University of Washington) |
| 6. Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health
(University of Iowa) | |

NYCAMH-NEC Occupational Health & Safety Map



NYCAMH Services: <https://www.nycamh.org/>

- Farm Safety
- Chainsaw Safety
- Occupational Health
- Health Works
- Respirator Fit Clinics
- PTO Shield Program
- ROPS Rollover Prevention
- John May Farm Safety Program
- Farmers Emergency Fund
- Farm Partners Program



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NYCAMH (4)



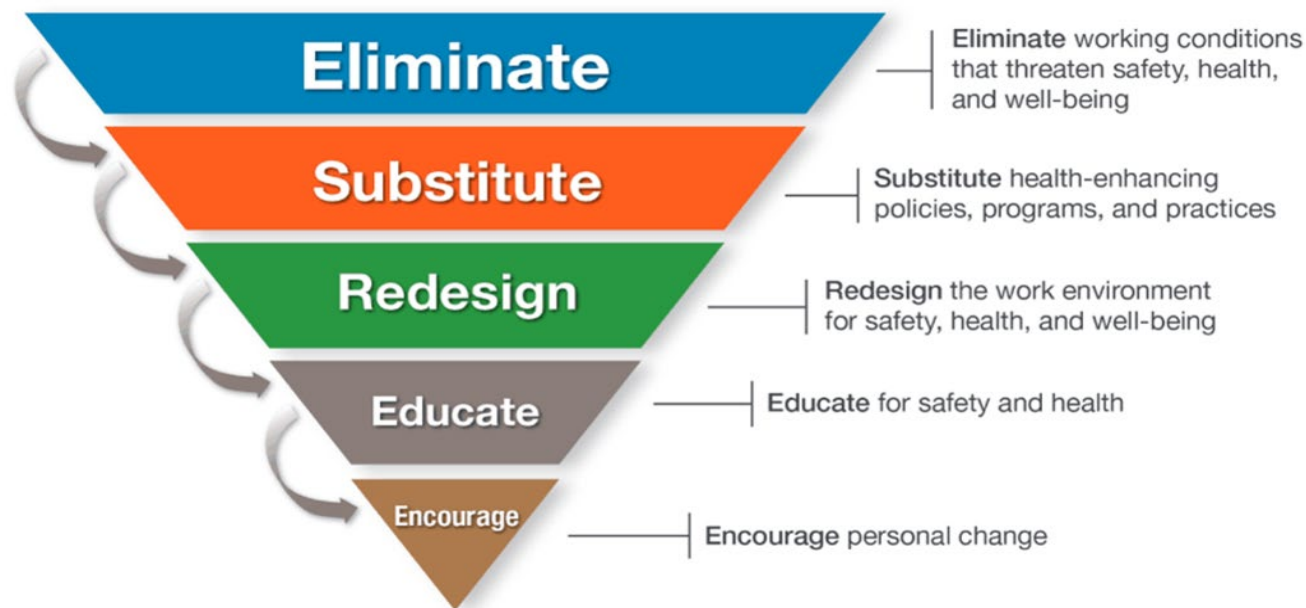
NYCAMH Services-Koval Brothers Dairy Video



NYCAMH (5)



Hierarchy of Controls Applied to NIOSH *Total Worker Health*[®]



Suggested Citation: NIOSH [2016]. Fundamentals of total worker health approaches: essential elements for advancing worker safety, health, and well-being. By Lee MP, Hudson H, Richards R, Chang CC, Chosewood LC, Schill AL, on behalf of the NIOSH Office for Total Worker Health. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-112.



Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health

Total Farmer Health

Healthy Mind + Healthy Body = Total Farmer Health

Healthy minds and bodies are an outcome of Total Farmer Health[®].

If you're a farmer, rancher, or farmworker, you already know that your work can expose you to a variety of hazards. AgriSafe's job is to help protect you while you work. We believe that with proper education and access to knowledgeable health professionals, you can live a long, healthy and productive life.



AgriSafe is proud to be a NIOSH *Total Worker Health[®]* Affiliate.





NYCAMH Healthcare (1)

- **Occupational Exposures & Illnesses**
- **Sources of Respiratory Hazards in Agriculture:**
 - **Soil, animals, plants, animal wastes, animal feeds, pesticides, fertilizers, exhaust fumes, welding fumes...**



NYCAMH Healthcare (2)

- **Occupational Exposures & Illnesses**
- **Dairy / Heifer farmer in NYS**
- **Life long Farmer and grew up on his father's farm.**
- **Symptoms: started with a cough/wheezing, then shortness of breath.**
- **He developed chronic Farmers lung and eventually couldn't walk from one end of the barn to the other, he had no stamina, no strength and had to sell his cows. He was on oxygen for the last 3 years of his life.**
- **"It was horrible for all of them, seeing their dad/husband slowly, slowly suffocating and organs shutting down"**





NYCAMH Healthcare (3)

- Occupational Exposures & Mental Health
- Symptoms/Warning Signs
- Clinical Diagnosis: Depression, Anxiety, PTSD...
- Solutions/Resolutions

Vicarious Trauma to...

- First Responders,
- Healthcare Workers,
- Other Individuals exposed to event(s).

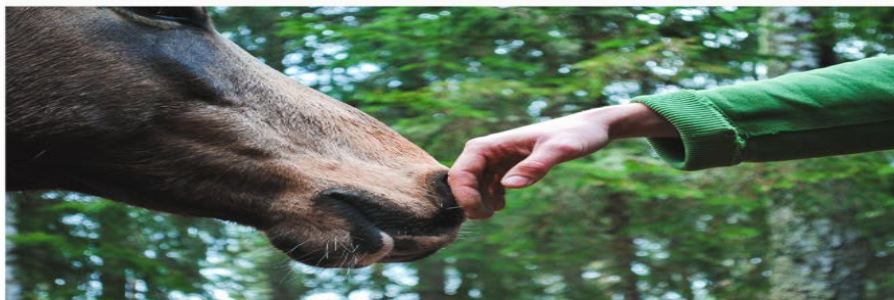




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New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health

NYCAMH (6)

**Promoting
Wellness,
Resilience
&
Safety...**



Free & Confidential Counseling
800-343-7527

NYCAMH.ORG

FARM PARTNERS



PROVIDES...

- Stress Reduction
- Emotional Wellness
- Resiliency
- Transition/Life Planning
- Therapeutic Support
- Farm Visits
- Consultations
- Confidentiality

Contact Farm Partners
800-343-7527

heather.chauncey@bassett.org



ABOUT

Promoting Wellness, Resilience & Safety for the NY farming community through Case Management & Therapeutic Support by a NYS Licensed Therapist.

Farm Partners has been providing free, confidential counseling & problem-solving assistance to the NYS farm community for over thirty years.

Together we can reduce the stigma of Mental Health by sharing information, provide early intervention, engagement in wellness services and reaching out for help to save lives.

NYCAMH

Additional Services

- Farmer's Health Clinic
- FREE:
 - On Site Farm Safety Training
 - Consultations with Safety Specialists
 - Respiratory Fit Tests
 - Personal Protection Equipment Consultation and Sales.
- SAVINGS ON...
High-Quality, low-cost PPE:
 - PTO Shields, Seatbelts,
 - Respirators, SMV Signage
 - Tractor Roll Bar Retrofit Rebates
 - Hearing, Eye & Chemical Protection
 - Logging Safety Gear



7/2022



Farm Partners Program; Case Management Services

1 of 2



Farm Visit-Assessment, White Tractor



Farm Partners Program; Case Management Services

2 of 2



Farm Visit-Assessment Red Tractor



Adaptability/Modifications 1 of 4



Modifications-Stair Extenders and Handrails



Adaptability/Modifications 2 of 4



Modifications-Agricultural Lifts



Adaptability/Modifications 3 of 4



Modifications- Electric Gate



Adaptability/Modifications 4 of 4

Enhancing
agricultural and rural
health
by preventing and
treating occupational
injury and illness.



Modifications-Bump Gate



Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health

Connecting/Networking

Heather Chauncey, LCAT

Clinical Case Manager & Therapist

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Farmers Emergency Fund

- An **EMERGENCY** is defined as a **SERIOUS**, **UNEXPECTED** and often **DANGEROUS** situation requiring **IMMEDIATE** action.
- The Farmer identified as experiencing an emergency will be provided with a 1x monetary allowance of up to 1k to assist with an expense related to the emergency, which is atypical and not covered by another type of program offered.





NYCAMH (8)

Suicide Prevention 5 Things You Should Know



Suicide is a leading cause of death among working-age adults in the United States. It deeply impacts workers, families, and communities. Fortunately, like other workplace fatalities, suicides can be prevented. Below are 5 things to know about preventing suicide.

1
BE AWARE

Everyone can help prevent suicide.
Mental health and suicide can be difficult to talk about—especially with work colleagues—but your actions can make a difference. When you work closely with others, you may sense when something is wrong.



2
PAY ATTENTION

Know the warning signs of suicide.
There is no single cause for suicide but there are warning signs. Changes in behavior, mood, or even what they say may signal someone is at risk. Take these signs seriously. It could save a life.



3
REACH OUT

Ask "Are you okay?"
If you are concerned about a coworker, talk with them privately, and listen without judgment. Encourage them to reach out to your Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the human resources (HR) department, or a mental health professional.



4
TAKE ACTION

If someone is in crisis, stay with them and get help.
If you believe a coworker is at immediate risk of suicide, stay with them until you can get further help. Contact emergency services or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.



5
LEARN MORE

Suicide prevention resources are available.

- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text "TALK" to 741741.
- Visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (www.afsp.org) to learn more about suicide risk factors, warning signs, and what you can do to help prevent suicide.



Prevención del suicidio 5 cosas que debe saber



El suicidio es una de las principales causas de muerte entre los adultos en edad de trabajar de los Estados Unidos. Afecta profundamente a trabajadores, familias y comunidades. Afortunadamente, al igual que otras muertes en entornos laborales, los suicidios se pueden prevenir. A continuación, encontrará 5 cosas que debe saber sobre la prevención de suicidios.

1
TOME CONSCIENCIA

Todos pueden ayudar a prevenir un suicidio.
La salud mental y el suicidio son temas difíciles de tratar (especialmente con colegas del trabajo), pero sus acciones pueden marcar la diferencia. Al trabajar de cerca con otras personas, usted puede detectar cuando algo no está bien.



2
PRESTE ATENCIÓN

Conozca las señales de advertencia del suicidio.
No hay una única causa para el suicidio, pero sí hay señales de advertencia. Los cambios de conducta, de humor, o incluso lo que se dice puede indicar que una persona está en riesgo. Tome en serio estas señales: podría salvar una vida.



3
OFREZCA AYUDA

Pregunte "¿Está bien?"
Si usted está preocupado por un compañero de trabajo, hable con él o ella en privado y escuche sin emitir juicios. Anímelos a comunicarse con su Programa de Asistencia a Empleados (EAP), con el departamento de Recursos Humanos (RRHH) o con un profesional de la salud mental.



4
TOME ACCIÓN

Si alguien está en crisis, quédense con esa persona y busque ayuda.
Si cree que un compañero o una compañera de trabajo está en riesgo inmediato de suicidio, quédense con él o ella hasta que pueda obtener más ayuda. Comuníquese con los servicios de emergencia o con la Línea Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio.



5
BUSQUE MÁS INFORMACIÓN

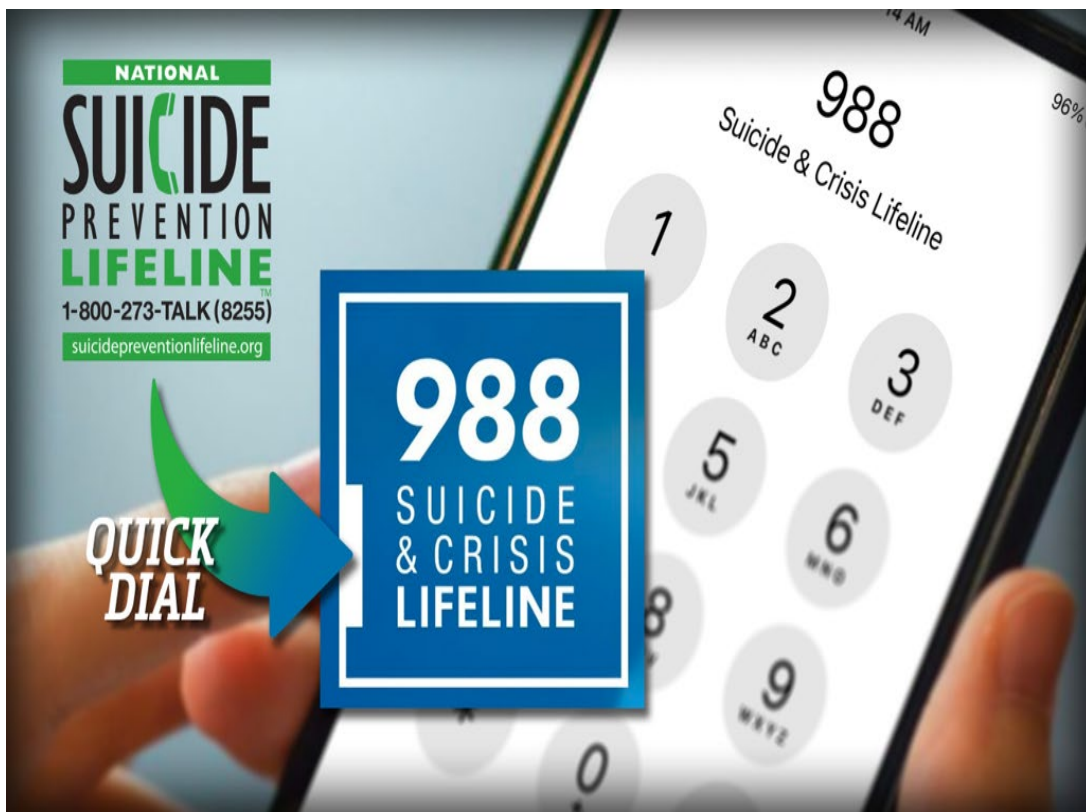
Hay recursos de prevención del suicidio disponibles.

- Llame a la Línea Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio al 1-800-273-TALK (8255), o envíe un SMS con el texto "TALK" al 741741.
- Visite la Fundación Americana para la Prevención del Suicidio (www.afsp.org) para obtener más información sobre factores de riesgo del suicidio, señales de advertencia y lo que usted puede hacer para ayudar a prevenir el suicidio.





NYCAMH (9)



LGBTQ+ Suicide Prevention Resources

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Veterans: Press 1

Text TALK to 741741

Text with a trained counselor from the Crisis Text Line for free, 24/7

The Trevor Project

TrevorLifeLine: Available 24/7 at
1-866-488-7386

TrevorText: Text TREVOR to
1-102-304-1200

TrevorChat: Via thetrevorproject.org

Trans Lifeline

Support for transgender people,
by transgender people
1-877-565-8860

SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline

Peer-support and local resources
for older adults
1-888-234-SAGE

The LGBT National Hotline

Peer-support and local resources
for all ages
1-888-843-4564



intermountainhealthcare.org/pride



Modification Resources

- Tractor add on steps: <http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/?solution=495>
- Combine steps: <http://www.agrability.org/toolbox/?solution=1567>
- Agricultural Lift: [Farming and Construction - Tractor Lift - Coach Lift](#)



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New York Center for Agricultural
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NYCAMH (10)



Heather Chauncey, LCAT

Clinical Case Manager

NYS Licensed Creative Arts Therapist **Closure-Time for Questions**

How to Save and Afford AT

Social Security Administration provides work supports for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who work: the **Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)** may allow a person to purchase AT while retaining benefits longer or at an increased level.

SSI and many types of Medicaid have resource limits of \$2,000 for an individual, \$3,000 for a couple; may be more, for larger households.

However, there are protected savings opportunities available that allow SSI and Medicaid beneficiaries to save more and continue to receive SSI benefits and Medicaid.

- **Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)** to save income towards education that leads to employment goal expenses; and
- **Achieve a Better Life Experience: (ABLE Act)**

[SSA information on protected savings.](#)

ABLE Act

A person who has a disability since before age 26, may open an ABLE savings / investment account at any age.

New Jersey and New York offer ABLE savings accounts; other ABLE plans are available to choose from too.

- Savings up to \$100,000 does not count towards the **SSI resource limit of \$2,000**.
- Any amount of ABLE savings does not impact any type of **Medicaid** eligibility.

An ABLE account owner, friends and family, Special Needs or Pooled Trust or a 529 college savings plan may **contribute** up to \$16,000 into ABLE annually.

An ABLE account owner who works and does not have contributions deposited into a retirement account may contribute up to an additional \$12,880 from their employment **earnings** into their ABLE account.

ABLE contributions can total **\$28,880 for 2022!**

[The ABLE National Resource Center Provides Free Information](#)

ABLE Qualified Disability Expenses

- Assistive technology;
- Education;
- Basic living expenses including food and shelter;
- Housing including utilities, rent, modification, purchase, property taxes;
- Transportation;
- Employment training and support;
- Personal support services and respite care;
- Health care expenses;
- Disability related vacations and recreational activities;
- Legal fees and financial management;
- Funeral and burial expenses.

NDI's Loan Program

- NDI partners a bank and credit union to issue and service pre-qualified AT loans up to \$30,000+ for residents of New Jersey and New York;
- NDI buys down the interest rate to 6% and 4% interest;
- NDI has deposited funds with these institutions to guarantee defaults, allowing for more favorable lending terms;

Our services include outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or programs that can help the individual acquire the accessible item at no cost, accessibility resource guide.

NDI AT Resource Guides

- The NDI AT Resource Guides list grants, lending programs and other service providers who can help you select the best and most cost-effective AT to meet your needs;
- There are AT Demonstration programs listed where you can try out or borrow AT, sometimes - indefinitely;
- There are AT assessment services that can help you evaluate AT to meet your needs, abilities and activity levels and environment.

[Assistive Technology Guide for New York](#)

[Assistive Technology Guide for New Jersey](#)



FINANCIAL RESILIENCE CENTER



*Online Resource Center for
People with Disabilities and
Chronic Health Conditions*

[Financial Resilience Center](#)



Contact

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Manager, Financial Empowerment

AssistiveTechLoans.com

Phone and FAX: **(202) 449-9521**

[Webinars are recorded](#)

Community presentations available

Post webinar survey:

- What information was most helpful?
- Do you need help finding a job?
- What type of AT would you like to know more about?
- Do you want to schedule an NDI AT Loan presentation for your agency or community organization?