What is the Colorado AgrAbility Project?
The Colorado AgrAbility Project (CAP) is a partnership between Colorado State University Extension and Goodwill Industries of Denver. The program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) that requires CAP to provide direct services, education, marketing, and networking. This unique collaboration promotes independence in agriculture by helping workers find the help they need to begin, remain, or regain employment on their farm or ranch.

Working on a farm can be dangerous. In Colorado there are between 7,000 to 10,000 farmers/ranchers working with a functional limitation. A single illness or injury could hinder a worker’s ability to run their business or otherwise survive in the agricultural industry. As a farmer ages, he or she may experience repetitive injuries making it necessary to adjust to a new “normal” and seek help. With technological support and education from AgrAbility, these individuals can continue working and providing for their families. Survey results demonstrate an opportunity for improved financial stability and enhanced quality of life among Colorado farmers/ranchers who are remaining in or entering agricultural employment as they experience long term illness, permanent injury, mobility issues, aging, or adverse change in condition.

What assistance can AgrAbility provide?
AgrAbility may find ways to modify everyday work tasks and equipment that will help farmers and ranchers continue their careers in agriculture safely and successfully. Some of the supportive services we provide include:

- Work site visits
- Task assessments
- Recommendations for equipment & home modifications
- Resource referrals
- Educational workshops

What is the process?
AgrAbility staff members work with the client to assess the impact that functional limitations have on their ability to perform necessary work tasks on their farm. We then systematically assess all tasks, practices, and equipment that the client reports as posing a problem. These are then prioritized by the client.

1. An AgrAbility staff member conducts a phone interview with the client
2. An on-site visit and evaluation is scheduled in which the client and staff member walk through all current work tasks. This visit can take anywhere from 2-6 hours.
3. The AgrAbility staff member will present the client with recommendations for process improvements, equipment modifications, adaptations, and resources for further consideration.
4. Continuing case management is offered to assist the client with the development of an action plan outlining how to achieve each goal.

Is there a fee for services?
No fee is required of the farmer, rancher, Ag worker, or their families to work with the program for professional training, information, technical assistance, on-farm assessments, resources or educational materials. CAP is a vendor in good standing with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is available to provide situational assessments and business consultations to clients they are serving.
**What educational opportunities does AgrAbility provide?**
Each winter, AgrAbility offers educational workshops across Colorado for farming and ranching families faced with limitations and the professionals who work with them. These workshops bring awareness to all the resources available to people with disabilities that will help them enter, remain, or regain their independence in the industry. In addition to its Winter Workshops, AgrAbility staff can provide customized training to interested groups on a wide variety of farming and disability topics upon request.

**Who does AgrAbility help?**
Any Coloradan with a disability, limitation or health condition who works in production agriculture or other agriculture-related occupations is eligible to receive services. AgrAbility services are also available to the families and caregivers of these individuals. Examples of impairments and limitations include but are not limited to:
- Mobility limitations
- Amputations
- Chronic pain
- Arthritis
- Developmental and behavioral disabilities
- Spinal cord injuries and paralysis
- Brain injuries
- Visual impairments
- Hearing impairments
- Respiratory impairments
- Disabling diseases
- Cerebral palsy

**Are services available statewide?**
Yes. The entire state of Colorado is part of the program. Educational presentations and on-farm/ranch assessments can be provided anywhere in the state.

**Does AgrAbility have funds to purchase equipment?**
The Colorado AgrAbility Project does not distribute any funding to individuals receiving services. However, AgrAbility staff connects families to partnering organizations and programs that can help offset the financial burden of equipment adaptations or modifications. AgrAbility staff will assist with making referrals to funding sources appropriate to each individual’s specific needs.

**Do I have to live on a farm or ranch to receive services?**
No. Any Coloradan who is engaged in farming, ranching, or other agriculture-related occupations and has a disability or serious health condition is eligible to receive services.

**Can I contribute financially to the work of the Colorado AgrAbility Project?**
Yes! Thank you for considering a contribution. The Colorado AgrAbility Project and its nonprofit workforce development partner—Goodwill Industries of Denver—are able to accept financial gifts to enhance and expand the efforts of the program. 100% of financial contributions go directly to programming—not overhead costs—and are tax deductible. Check with your tax preparer for the most advantageous method of giving. To make a donation online, please visit GoodwillDenver.org/give and press “Donate Now.” Please type “AgrAbility” in the special instructions/comments field to ensure your donation goes directly to the Colorado AgrAbility Project. To write a check, please reach out directly to a member of the AgrAbility staff listed below.

**How can I contact AgrAbility?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For information about the Colorado AgrAbility Project, please contact:</th>
<th>For information about Colorado State University Extension, please contact:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Candiss Leathers</strong>  Project Manager  720-539-4435  <a href="mailto:cleathers@goodwilldenver.org">cleathers@goodwilldenver.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Dr. Norm Dalsted</strong>  Project Director  719 545-1845 • 970.222.5657  <a href="mailto:norman.dalsted@colostate.edu">norman.dalsted@colostate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This material is based upon work supported by the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture, under special project number 2018-41590-04237.