

GROWING GOODWILL

Colorado
AgrAbility
Cultivating Accessible Agriculture
NEWS



Goodwill
of
COLORADO



ENGAGEMENT
AND EXTENSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2023

AgrAbility Awarded Funding from Colorado Department of Agriculture

AgrAbility is pleased to announce that funding has been awarded from the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) through the 2021 NIFA Rural Mental Health initiative. We are grateful for the work of Robert Fetch, Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project and Candiss Leathers, Program Manager for AgrAbility on this award.

The NIFA Rural Mental Health initiative aims to support the psychosocial well being of Colorado's agricultural workers with community-based efforts to manage the increasing stresses on farmers with the supportive services of trusted community partners.

The rapid response funding has provided critical equipment and adaptations in to offer clients more autonomy and support to continue their agricultural livelihoods. Colorado AgrAbility has purchased adaptive equipment such as step kits, handling equipment, and hand controls for adapting equipment and vehicles. We are grateful to the CDA for the opportunity to provide these much needed services and supports to the agricultural community, and a special thank you to Candiss for her hard work on this!



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Pictured is an AgrAbility client who received a new motorized cart that gives him the ability to perform necessary tasks around his farm that include pushing, pulling, and carrying. "It's been a game changer!" he reports.

Colorado AgrAbility Team



The team met for their bi-monthly meeting at the Colorado State University's (CSU) Spur Campus, in Denver this August. CSU Spur is home to active science and research and welcomes visitors of all ages.

This unique campus is located on the ground of the National Western Show, where we continue to have a long-standing partnership.

Pictured (L to R): Candiss Leathers, Chad Reznicek, Ashley Buchanan, James Kuemmerle, Jim Craig, Bob Fetsch, Kirsten Wulfsberg, Rebecca Hill, Ellis Vidmar and Julie Elliott; Not pictured, James Sanchez.

Welcome to the Team!

Regional Extension Behavioral Health Specialists

Colorado AgrAbility Project's Extension Regional Behavioral Health Specialists work across the state to expand and improve behavioral health support, stress management, and suicide prevention for farmers, ranchers, ag-workers, their family members, and rural communities.



Julie Elliott, M.A., LPC; Western Region

Julie Elliott is a licensed professional therapist, who spent 15+ years providing behavioral health services, vocational services, and education in diverse settings with special focus areas in trauma, suicide prevention, mood disorders, disability, families, and substance abuse. Julie grew up in Northwest Colorado and is from a 5th generation ranch family. She is committed to helping others improve their behavioral health by providing them with support and resources in their rural communities and embraces the strong spirit of the west and western agriculture.



Kirsten Wulfsberg, LPC; Mountain Region

Kirsten Wulfsberg is a licensed professional counselor, who spent 20 years working in psychiatric crisis management within a hospital/emergency department setting. Kirsten is passionate about behavioral health education, training and working with people in a preventative manner, and believes feeling engaged in your community is a key component of that. She loves volunteering and spending time with her husband and dogs in Chaffee County, enjoying year-round mountain and river activities.



Jim Kuemmerle, MSW, BCD, LCSW; Eastern Region

Jim Kuemmerle has a background in clinical social work, prominent in rural communities in several states including Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wyoming and Colorado. During the First Gulf War, he served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a flight operations specialist in an attack helicopter battalion and during the War of Terror, he served in the Pennsylvania and Colorado Army National Guard as a behavioral health officer in a mobile medical unit.

Jim is a retired first responder, trained as a firefighter, EMT, and hazardous materials technician. He volunteers as a Boy Scout leader, serving as a mentor for the youth in his community, state and around the country.

Rural Rehabilitation Specialist



Ashley Buchanan, M.A. Ed/SPE, M. Ext. Ed.; Rural Rehabilitation Specialist

Ashley Buchanan, joins the Colorado AgrAbility Project from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) from two different perspectives and roles; both a VR Counselor and Business Outreach Specialist. She was a K-12 Special Education teacher in multiple areas of rural Colorado. Ashley prides herself on the experience she has with individuals, both youth and adult populations with disabilities and their families. Ashley did not grow up in a rural area of Colorado but lived in a very rural part of Nebraska for a short time and fell in love with the culture and closeness of small communities. Ashley hopes to make a real difference in the lives of individuals who are within agricultural related occupations.

Community Voices: AgrAbility

Mark Rose, a videographer from Colorado State University, recently produced several videos of AgrAbility clients to showcase their stories.

Check them out at agrability.colostate.edu/our-stories/ or <https://vimeo.com/848504413/4d58cdf3ce>

Lexi (pictured right) is a very active 12-year-old who doesn't let her challenges in life slow her down. Watch the video to see how AgrAbility helped Lexi continue to pursue her passion for raising Boer goats.



Free Workshops from Colorado AgrAbility

Designed for:

- Farm and ranch operators and their families
- Farm employees
- Farm support services
- Professionals who serve and work with agricultural communities
- Health Professionals

November

11/2 ~ Grand County Extension Office

210 N 11th Street, Kremmling, CO 80459

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

11/14 ~ Routt County Community Room

135 6th Street, Steamboat Springs, CO

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

11/30 ~ Gene Dotty Senior Center

307 Linda Street, Fort Morgan, CO

1:30 - 4:30 PM

January

1/12 ~ Pueblo County Extension Office

701 Court Street, Ste C. Pueblo, CO

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

February

2/1 ~ Otero County Extension Office

27901 County Road 21, Rocky Ford, CO

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Topics

AgrAbility 101, Emotional Well Being & Aging, and Aging in Agriculture

REGISTER NOW!



Scan QR code or visit:

<https://agrability.colostate.edu/event-list/>



Goodwill
of
COLORADO

Questions?

Contact: Ellis Vidmar, Program Coordinator
ellis.vidmar@colostate.edu OR 970-491-4585



**ENGAGEMENT
AND EXTENSION**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY