



# Texas AgrAbility

## BACKGROUND

In 2009, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service started the Texas AgrAbility project, which is a program that assists farmers and ranchers with disabling/chronic health conditions to start or stay engaged in agriculture operations. Texas AgrAbility assists clients through one-on-one consultation, referrals to resources, assistive equipment recommendations, and farm and ranch assessments.

To date, Texas AgrAbility has assisted 237 clients with farm & ranch assessments, resource recommendations, and referral to direct service agencies.

70% of the current AgrAbility clients are military veterans. Since 2012, Texas AgrAbility has served military veterans through the BattleGround to Breaking Ground workshop and online education.



[TXAGRABILITY.TAMU.EDU](http://TXAGRABILITY.TAMU.EDU)

## RELEVANCE

Agriculture ranks in the top 5 dangerous occupations, with an estimated 50,000 Texas farmers and ranchers living with a disability or chronic health condition. Disabling conditions such as arthritis, joint injuries, traumatic brain injuries, back injuries, and cardiovascular conditions impact a farmer or ranchers ability to preform many of the tasks necessary for their occupation.

Texas AgrAbility addresses these issues by conducting farm and ranch assessments for clients, making recommendations for assistive technology and equipment modifications, connecting clients to direct services organizations such as Vocational Rehabilitation, and connecting to resources that provide assistance.

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers make up a large portion of Texas' farming population. According to the National Center for Farmworker Health, there are over 360,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Texas. Disabilities are prevalent in this population due to prolonged manual labor. Common disabilities include: diabetes, hypertension, musculoskeletal injuries, respiratory diseases, and arthritis

Texas AgrAbility is addressing these issues by providing education and training in farm safety, and referral to direct disability and community support services for farmworkers and their families

Educational materials on injury prevention and secondary injury have been translated to Spanish.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Farmers & Ranchers



Individuals with Disabilities  
& Health Conditions

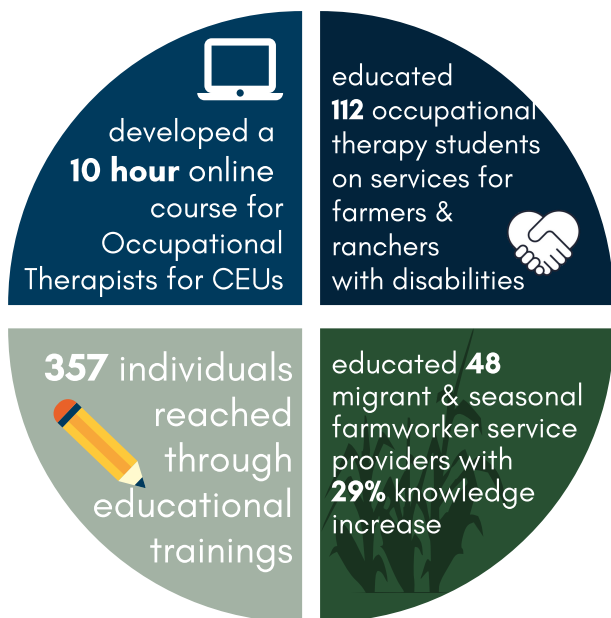


Family Members of  
Farmers, Ranchers  
& Farmworkers

Migrant & Hispanic  
Farmers &  
Farmworkers



## Goal 1 PROVIDE EDUCATION



## Goal 3 ASSISTANCE

**70%** of those **Texas AgrAbility** served were **military veterans with disabilities** in agriculture with resources for business planning, assistive technology recommendations, task modifications, and resource referrals

**57** clients have received services in the form of technical assistance, agricultural business planning, worksite assessments, and assistive technology recommendations

Through its contract with Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehabilitation, Texas AgrAbility recommended over **\$30,000** in assistive technology to Vocational Rehabilitation co-shared clients to improve accessibility to their farm or ranch.

**“When y'all came out, I thought it was great. Things that had been bothering me that I thought I would just put up with because I'm old, it hurts, and its going to hurt anyway... well it doesn't have to hurt.**

*-Texas AgrAbility Client*

## Goal 2 INCREASE SERVICE CAPACITY

**Texas AgrAbility** partnered with **West Texas A&M University** Engineering Department & **University of St. Augustine** Occupational Therapy Program to increase reach to clients in the panhandle of Texas



through this partnership, over **\$25,000** in in-kind farm/ranch modifications were provided to Texas AgrAbility clients

## Goal 4 MARKETING & OUTREACH



**Texas AgrAbility** staff collaborated with the Occupational Therapy students to publish a factsheet titled **Traumatic Brain Injury in Agriculture**

**1,300** subscribers to the **Texas AgrAbility** monthly newsletter, **3,163** followers on social media

**247** posts in the **Texas AgrAbility** online forums Texas Agriculture Health, Veterans in Agriculture, & Migrant/Hispanic Farmers

**Texas AgrAbility** produced client testimonial videos highlighting services provided by Texas AgrAbility in partnership with **TWC Vocational Rehab.**  
[click here to view](#)

**Texas AgrAbility** produced 2 introductory videos in **English & Spanish** highlighting services provided by Texas AgrAbility & how to become a client