

## Program Brief

Extending Knowledge | Providing Solutions



### About

The **Texas AgrAbility program** helps farmers and ranchers with disabling or chronic health conditions to start or stay engaged in agriculture operations. The program offers one-on-one consultations, referrals to resources, assistive equipment recommendations, and assessments. **Since 2012, 70% of AgrAbility clients have been military veterans.** The program provides education through the BattleGround to Breaking Ground workshop and online courses.

Farmers & Ranchers



Individuals with Disabilities & Health Conditions



Family Members of Farmers, Ranchers & Farmworkers



Service Providers of farmers and individuals with disabilities



### 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 perform many of the tasks necessary for their occupation.

Rural health providers often lack the necessary resources to effectively serve the agriculture

community. Studies show that occupational therapists have limited knowledge about working with farmers and ranchers with disabilities, which can prevent them from providing important resources. To provide quality care to rural agriculture workers, it's essential to offer resources such as ergonomics, farm safety, and mental health support.

### Response

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 additional resources that provide assistance. It also provides education and training in farm safety, mental health, ergonomics, resource for women in agriculture, and referral to direct disability and community support services for farmers and their families.

A Texas AgrAbility peer group has been established to connect farmers and ranchers with disabilities. The peer group allows participants to share resources, tips, and experiences. Members of the group can also be included on a peer group map to find other farmers and ranchers in their area or with a similar disability. As part of the partnership with AgriSafe Network, a Total Farmer Health Coach has been trained to provide mental health and safety trainings to farmers and ranchers with disabilities and service providers.

### 2023 RESULTS

148



DIRECT ONE-ON-ONE  
CONSULTATIONS WITH  
FARMERS AND RANCHERS  
WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR  
SERVICE PROVIDERS

172



EDUCATIONAL CONTACT HOURS  
THROUGH PRESENTATIONS AND  
WEB-BASED TRAININGS

\$30,000

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL GAIN  
OF FARM EQUIPMENT  
MODIFICATIONS TO TEXAS  
AGRABILITY CLIENTS

97 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
STUDENTS EDUCATED IN  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY  
FOR FARMERS AND  
RANCHERS



OVERALL SATISFACTION OF 4.5  
OUT OF 5 STARS FROM CLIENTS

## TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

"The steering wheel knob you recommended for my tractor and quad is so awesome. I know I've told you this before but every day I drive I'm thankful for it. It was on my mind just yesterday when I was doing some work. It makes life a lot easier on my hands and you did that! Thanks again."

"The team at AgrAbility was a big help to my Farm and Ranch business and the All-Terrain Ranger, literally put me "Back In The Saddle" again, enabling me to sell more than one large ranch this year, the last one being a 500 acre ranch near Crockett."

"(Texas AgrAbility) provided technical assistance and helped me evaluate my ergonomic movements when working."

"(Texas AgrAbility) gave me a much better overall view of our operation that I wasn't seeing - the old adage of 'You don't know what you don't know.'"

"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."

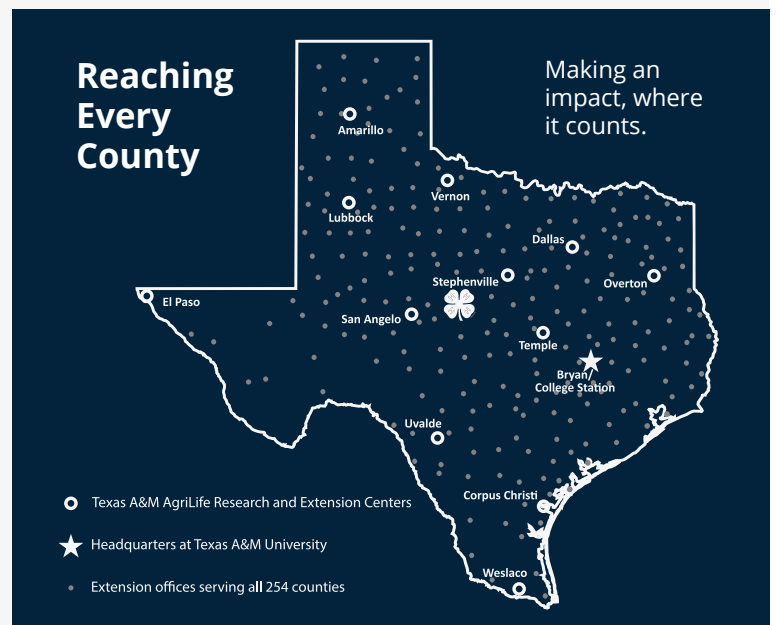
## Family and Community Health

*Advancing the Health of Texans through Extension Education*

AgriLife Extension's FCH Unit helps Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.

The goal of FCH is to encourage lifelong health and well-being for every person, family, and community.

Programs are developed by subject matter experts (Specialists) and delivered throughout the state by a network of local educators (County Extension Agents) and volunteers with support and leadership from Regional Program Leaders, Unit Heads, and the Extension Leadership Team.



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