

Supporting our Rural Economy

Maine joins 24 other states with AgrAbility programs in a network of USDA funded programs. The project links state University Cooperative extension offices with private nonprofit disability organizations to provide practical education and assistance to farmers with disabilities and other barriers.



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MAINE AGRABILITY



Maine AgrAbility
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 **AgrAbility**
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What is AgrAbility?

AgrAbility is a national program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides assistance for farmers, farm workers and farm family members with chronic health conditions or disabilities. The program helps individuals continue to farm successfully and live independently. Goodwill offers this program in Maine in collaboration with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One.

There are an estimated 5,700 farmers and farm workers in Maine with a chronic health condition or disability. The program addresses a variety of disabling conditions, such as:

- ★ Amputation
- ★ Arthritis
- ★ Back Impairments
- ★ Brain Injury
- ★ Cerebral Palsy
- ★ Respiratory ailments
- ★ Spinal cord injuries and paralysis
- ★ Stroke
- ★ Visual and hearing impairments



How can Maine AgrAbility help me?

We can offer the following services at no cost to customers:

- ★ On-site assessments to identify barriers to completing tasks both in the agricultural workplace and the home.
- ★ Make recommendations for appropriate assistive technologies, modified work practices and other possible solutions to overcome disability-related limitations
- ★ Provide access to informational materials on a variety of topics related to disability and agriculture
- ★ Provide education/training opportunities
- ★ Make referrals to other service providers for potential assistance
- ★ Arrange for peer support opportunities

Maine AgrAbility also works with rural agriculture, rehabilitation and health care professionals to support Maine farmers with disabilities and their families. Maine AgrAbility seeks to share information and resources across the state through networking activities.

Note: Maine AgrAbility does not provide direct funding or equipment. However, we often work with Maine Vocational Rehabilitation departments and other funding sources to help customers obtain needed assistive technologies and modifications.

Am I eligible?

If you live in Maine, work in agriculture and suffer from a disability, you are eligible. Your disability or injury does not have to be the result of farming. Our goal is to work with you to help you continue farming.

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