

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Accessibility and Disability Policy Webinar Series November 4, 2025

Farming with a Disability? AgrAbility Can Help!

presented by

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For more information: www.gov.texas.gov/disabilities • gcpd@gov.texas.gov • 512-463-5749

About GCPD

The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) has a mission to further opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity, and self-determination.

GCPD recommends changes in disability policies and programs in the areas of accessibility, communication, criminal justice, education, emergency preparedness, employment, health, housing, transportation, and veterans. The committee also supports a network of committees on people with disabilities, issues awards to promote greater awareness, and promotes compliance with disability related laws.

General Information

 Chat is disabled in Zoom Webinar Mode. Please use the Q&A tool if you have questions for our presenters. Most questions will be answered near the end of the webinar.

 After the webinar, you will get an automated email from Zoom with a link to our GCPD page to access the webinar recording and other materials. The email will also include a survey where you can give your feedback.

Empowering Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities through Assistive Technology: Building Inclusive Rural Communities

Cindy Kovar

Program Manager of Texas AgrAbility





Introduction



Topic Overview



Physical Challenges and Cognitive Barriers Faced by Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities



Economic and Social Challenges Faced by Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities



Assistive Technologies in Agriculture





Ergonomic Tools

Hydraulic Lift Table

Modified Machinery



Hand-Controlled Tractors







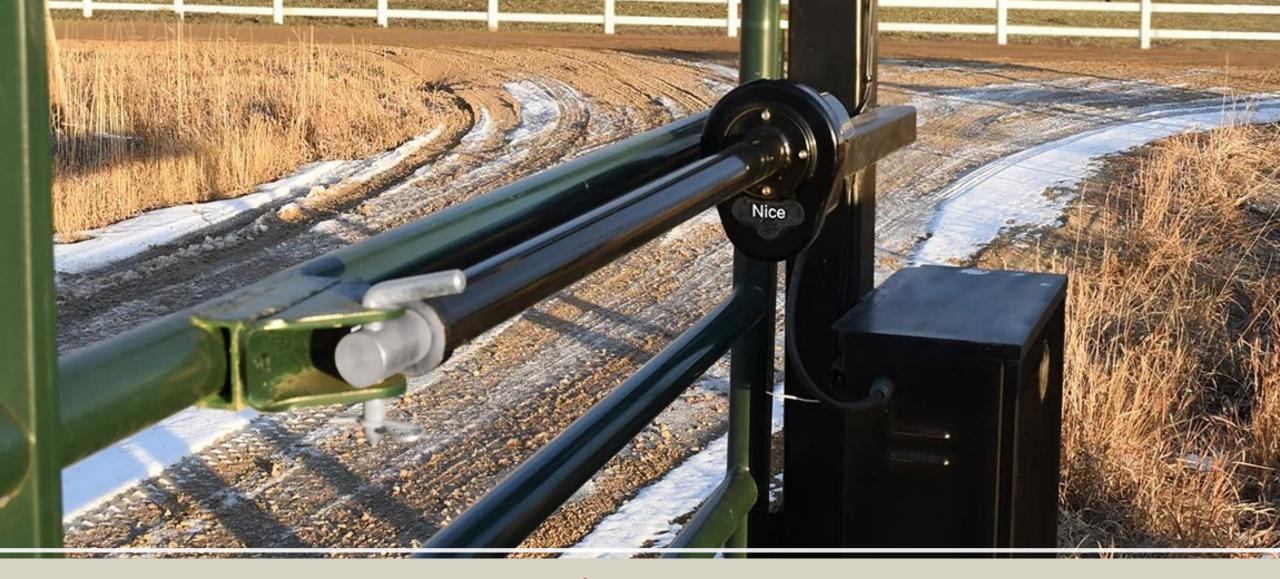
Assistive Technologies in Agriculture

Lift Systems





Joystick-Controlled Equipment



Automatic Gate Openers

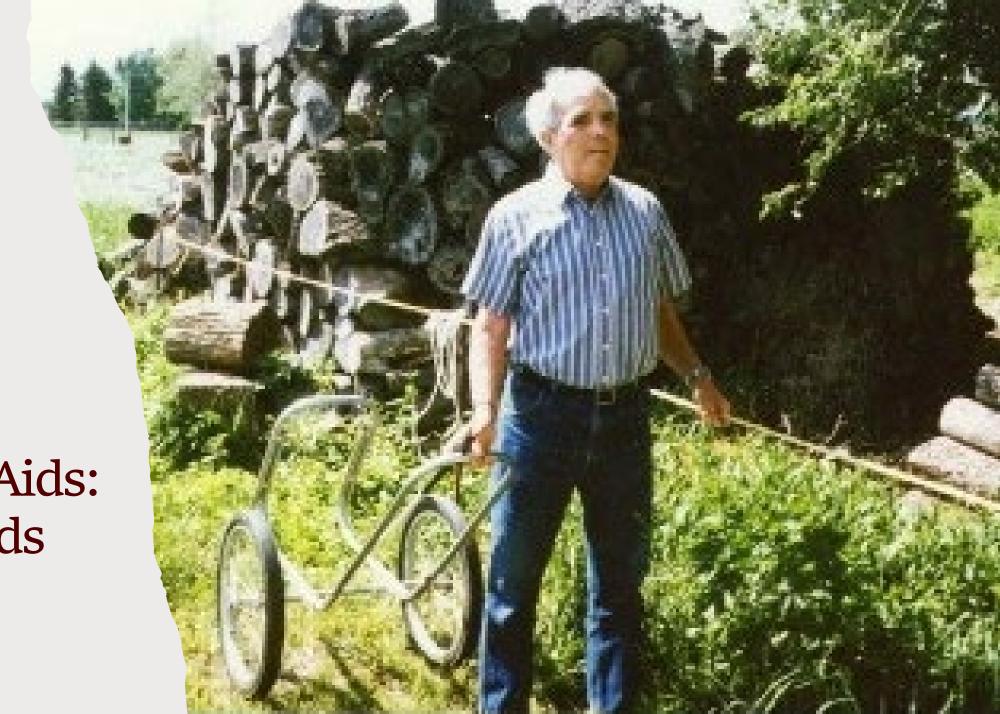
One-Handed Tools







Sensory Aids: Hearing Protection and Amplification



Sensory Aids: Visual Aids



Livestock Handling Equipment: Accessible Feeders and Waterers

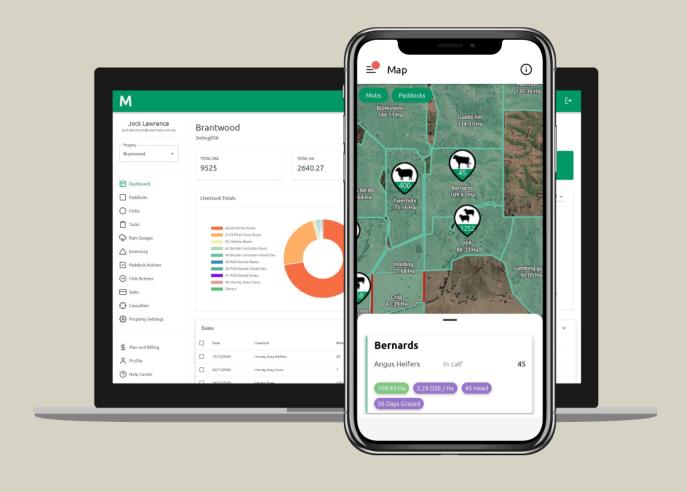
Livestock Handling Chutes



Assistive and Digital Technologies: GPS and Auto-Steering Systems



Assistive and Digital Technologies: Farm Management Apps





Infrastructure Modifications: Accessible Facilities



Infrastructure Modifications: Modular Greenhouses





Specialized Equipment for Specific Disabilities: Seated Mowers and Tillers







FUNDING AGRICULTURAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY













Assistive Technology (AT) for use in agricultural settings can look like many different things. The key is how it relates to helping a person overcome barriers related to a disability or long-term health condition.

Examples of Agricultural AT include:

- 1. Cab cameras for increasing vision and safety
- 2. Grain bin level indicators to improve independence
- 3. Mobility lifts to restore equipment access
- Ergonomic steps and handrails to aid in safe accessibility
- 5. Automatic takeoffs to aid in milking routines
- 6. Garden seat for accessible and ergonomic gardening

AT solutions are unique to each person, their disability, and type of agricultural operation. AgrAbility PA provides on-site assessments that help determine what modifications, equipment, and resources are needed to support a farmer returning to or continuing to work in agriculture.

Assistive technology can be anything that helps a person with a disability or functional limitation perform a task.

Definition of Assistive Technology

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system – whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized – that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

[20 U.S.C. Chapter 33 Section 1401 (25)]

Financial Assistance Programs: Grants and Loans

Economic
Benefits:
Increased
Productivity



Economic Benefits: Community Impact





Economic
Benefits:
Case Studies

Social Impacts on Rural Communities







Focusing on Minority Groups: Women in Agriculture

Focusing on Minority Groups: Hispanic and Black Farmers





United States Department of Agriculture

Policy and Support Programs: Government Initiatives



Future of Inclusive Agriculture: Innovation in Assistive Technologies





Conclusion



Contact Us Today
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