

Regional Workshop: Discharge Planning in Agriculture



Marci Walborn, OTR/L

- Non-Profit Project Director for AgrAbility PA
- Director at UCP Central PA
- Occupational Therapist for 20 years
- Provides oversight for Assistive Technology Department at UCP Central PA



Agriculture: National

- In 2017, approximately 21.6 million full & part-time jobs are in agriculture or related occupations.
(11% of U.S. workforce)
- Direct on-farm employment accounted for 2.6 million of these jobs
(1.3% of U.S. workforce)
- In 2016, Agricultural exports out of the U.S. were valued at \$129.7 billion
- The average farm size has risen from 418 acres in 2007 to 442 acres in 2016



Agriculture: Pennsylvania

- In 2017, number of farms in PA is 53,157 totaling 7,278,668 acres
- The average size of a PA farm is 137 acres
(7 acres more than the average in 2012)
- Majority of PA farms (19,985) are 50 to 179 acres; 98 percent are family farms

Pennsylvania is:

- 3rd in U.S. for nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod
- 3rd in U.S. for cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops
- 6th in U.S. for milk
- 7th in U.S. for horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys, and tobacco

Agriculture: Pennsylvania

- More than 90,460 agricultural producers in PA; Some 59,000 are male
- Majority of farmers are between the ages of 35 – 64, which is approximately 53,000 individuals
- Nearly 26,000 farmers are over the age of 65
- Just over 23,000 farmers are new and beginning farmers
- **Lancaster, Bradford, Franklin, York, Berks**
- Top Counties with land in farms



Agriculture: Risk Factors

- Extreme Weather
- Terrain
- Farm machinery
- Unpredictable situations (fires)
- Excessive vibration and motion
- Respiratory Hazards (chemicals, dust, molds)
- Handling livestock/animals
- Falls
- Untreated Impairments (visual/hearing)
- Length of workday
- Repetitive tasks



Agriculture: Common Injuries/Conditions

- Arthritis
- Back pain
- Knee pain
- Amputations
- Visual/Hearing impairments
- TBI/ head injuries

- Spinal Cord Injuries/
Paralysis
- Congenital diagnoses
- Respiratory
impairments
- Disabling diseases
- Eye injuries
- Shoulder injuries

Prevalence of Injuries/Conditions

- **According to the Center for Disease Control (2014):**
 - **Leading Injury Sources included:**
 - Persons/plants/animals/minerals
 - Machinery
 - Tools/instruments/equipment
 - Other sources (*includes chemicals/chemical products, containers/fixtures, parts/materials*)
 - **Most injured body parts included:**
 - Shoulder/chest/back/abdomen/pelvic region
 - Hand/wrist/fingers
 - Other body parts (included internal injuries)
 - **Nature of those injuries included:**
 - Sprain/strain/torn ligament
 - Cuts/Scrapes
 - Dislocations
 - Puncture/stab/jab
 - Traumatic rupture
 - Crush/mangle
 - Amputation
 - Nerve injury
 - Burn/blister
 - Traumatic brain injury

Cultural Philosophy

- **Farming and ranching is not just a job** – *it's a valued role, an identity, a life.*
- In the United States, no one is ever that far away from a farm. And because farming is such a risky profession, the likelihood of farmers ending up in the health care system is pretty high.

Waite, 2015



Occupational Therapy: Overview

- **WHAT?** – Our life is made up of occupations – meaningful everyday activities. These occupations can include your role as a parent, friend, spouse, musician, artist, cook, or farmer.
- **WHEN?** – Illness, injury, or a diagnosis disrupts your ability to engage in these everyday occupations to your fullest extent.
- **HOW?** – Through education and training, evaluate task performance and the environment, and then provide interventions related to these areas. Interventions can include physical, psychological, and cognitive aspects impacting the individual.

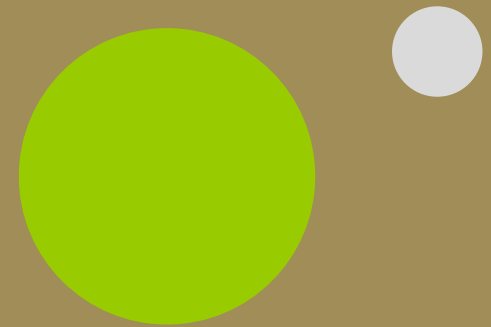
AOTA, n.d., 2015, 2017

Occupational Therapy: Overview

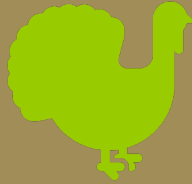
- **WHERE?**
 - Academia
 - Community
 - Early Intervention
 - Outpatient
 - Home Health
 - Inpatient (Hospital)
 - Long Term Care/Skilled Nursing
 - Mental Health
 - Schools

- **Types of Services:**
 - Screenings and Evaluations
 - Intervention/Treatment Plans
 - Outcomes evaluation/Discharge planning

Occupational Therapy: Overview



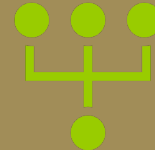
Occupational Therapy: Discharge Planning



When does it start?



What should you
consider?



Who should you
involve in the
planning process?

Occupational Therapy: Discharge Planning



Does the client understand his or her disability or residual limitations and its impact on occupation or his/her ability to perform essential work functions?



Can the client communicate his/her needs/goals to others, including assistive technology, their needs for accommodations and modifications, etc.?



Does the client have adequate assistive technology support to meet his/her needs?



Have you addressed environmental modifications?

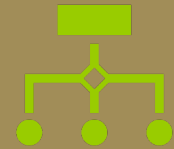


Has a home study/review been conducted?

Occupational Therapy: Discharge Planning



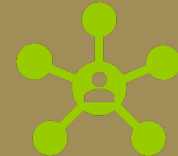
Is the individual connected to Vocational Rehabilitation services and supports?



What technology or adaptations are required for the individual to return to work?



Have the transportation needs of the client been addressed?



Does the client know of community resources and contacts to meet his/her needs?

Occupational Therapy: Discharge Planning

Things to consider when working with a farmer:

- What is their role? How big is their farm?
- What is the terrain? Any mobility issues?
- Can they enter the buildings? Reach the equipment? Service the equipment?
- Hand tools? Power tools?
- Farm vehicles (tractor, combine, etc.)?
Seating/transfers? Controls?
Hitching/unhitching?
- Other impairments? Vision? Hearing?
- Record keeping?
- Type of farm? Livestock? Orchard?
Woods? Gardens?



Resources

- **American Occupational Therapy Association – www.aota.org**
- **PA AgrAbility Project – www.AgrabilityPA.org**
- **Indiana AgrAbility Project – Conducting Agricultural Worksite Assessments - www.engineering.purdue.edu**
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – www.nass.usda.gov**
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – www.cdc.gov**

Questions



Find us on Facebook
AgrAbility PA



Follow us on Twitter
@AgrAbilityPA



Connect with us on
Instagram or Pinterest



Learn More: AgrAbility PA

- ONLINE: Resources, Information, & Ideas
- AgrAbility.org/ToolBox
- AgrAbilityPA.org
- Get Social: [@AgrAbilityPA](https://twitter.com/AgrAbilityPA)
[#AgrAbilityPA](https://www.instagram.com/AgrAbilityPA)
- **CONTACT US**
- (814) 867-5288
- AgrAbility@psu.edu