

AGRICULTURAL WORKSITE ASSESSMENTS



All Photos: Abbie Spackman / AgrAbility PA / Penn State

AgrAbility PA provides agricultural worksite assessments for farmers and agricultural workers who have a disability or long-term health condition.

Assessments help determine what modifications, assistive technology and resources can support the individual in returning to or continuing to work in agriculture.

What to Expect from an Assessment:

- **1-2 AgrAbility staff members** meeting with you at the farm or agricultural worksite
- **2-3 hours of time from start to finish**
- **Informal, yet detailed evaluation** with majority of time spent outdoors or in farm buildings
- **Time will be spent looking at equipment, farm buildings, job duties, and general farm tasks**
- **You may be asked to demonstrate** some job duties or tasks
- **With your permission, pictures and video** will be taken of the farm, equipment, and tasks

Eligibility:

- **Anyone working in agriculture who has a disability or long-term health condition is eligible for AgrAbility services**
- **A staff member will conduct a phone interview (or another format as needed) to determine if you would benefit from a farm assessment**



Examples of before and after a worksite assessment. Left Photos: A farmer now uses a stable platform with handrails versus a leaning ladder for accessibility. Right Photos: Additional steps and handrail allow for greater stability when accessing the tractor.

Outcomes:

- **Staff members strive to make recommendations** directly to the individual during a worksite assessment.
- **AgrAbility PA will follow-up with a letter of recommendations** based on the worksite assessment.
- **Staff members will continue to work with an individual** to obtain and implement the recommendations and feedback.

Tips & Considerations:

- **Assessments typically occur rain or shine** but may be postponed if extreme weather affects travel or safety.
- **Assessments usually start at the house or farm office**, but staff can discuss specific meeting locations.
- **Biosecurity:** The staff implements general biosecurity practices when visiting a worksite, such as wearing clean boots, boot covers, long pants or long sleeves, masks, etc. Please notify staff ahead of time of specific practices.
- **Safety precautions:** Staff members follow safety guidelines when visiting. Please inform staff ahead of time of any hazards or safety concerns that might be special to a worksite.
- **Health precautions:** Staff members will postpone a visit if they have any signs or symptoms of a contagious illness. Contact a staff member if you or anyone you have recently been in contact with has signs or symptoms of a contagious illness.

“ **This is NOT a farm inspection.** We are visiting your worksite to help you. We care greatly about your safety and health. We may provide you with information or resources that could benefit you and the place in which you work. ”

– Abbie Spackman
AgrAbility PA | Project Assistant

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