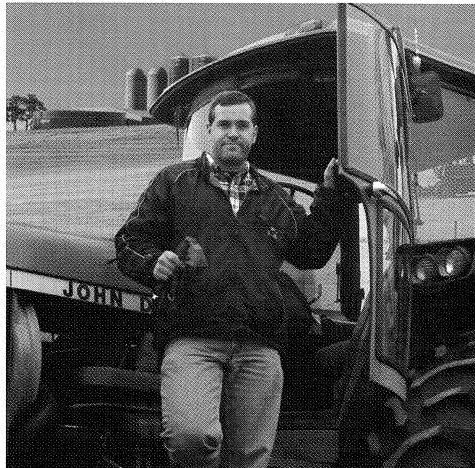


AT

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Due to the physical demands and the hands on nature of farming, people who live and work on farms are more likely to sustain disabling injuries. Add these to the normal incidence of birth defects and illness and it's estimated that up to 30% of rural Kansans have physical disabilities.



Assistive technology refers to devices and services that can help increase productivity or improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. The selection, funding, and maintenance of assistive technology is a challenge in urban areas. Distance, isolation, and the cost-efficiency of service delivery compound the problems faced by rural consumers. Fortunately, the devices and services needed by Kansans with disabilities to sustain independent life-styles are becoming increasingly available.

AT

RESOURCES FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Assistive Technology for Kansans, the Kansas State University Extension Services and Kansas Rehabilitation Services provide a range of specific agribusiness technology supports for persons with disabilities.

- On-site agribusiness assessments
- Assistance with the selection and fitting of assistive technology devices
- Funding assistance
- Instruction in optimal use and maintenance
- Follow-up contact

Kansas Rehabilitation Services

800-432-2326

www.srsKansas.org/locations.htm

County Extension Services

Call 785-532-1505 for the location of your local county extension office.

www.oznet.ksu.edu Click on *County Extensions* in the *Top Visited Sites*.

Assistive Technology for Kansans

is a statewide project coordinated by the Kansas University Center on Disabilities at Parsons. The project is composed of individuals with disabilities, family members, and representatives from Kansas agencies.

800 KAN DO IT

800•526•3648

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR KANSANS

2601 Gabriel Avenue
P.O. Box 738
Parsons, Kansas 67357
800 526 3648 *Voice*
www.atk.ku.edu

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR KANSANS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

WORK ON THE FARM



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR KANSANS



www.atk.ku.edu

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IF YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAS A DISABILITY AND WANTS TO CONTINUE FARMING OR LIVING IN RURAL KANSAS, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

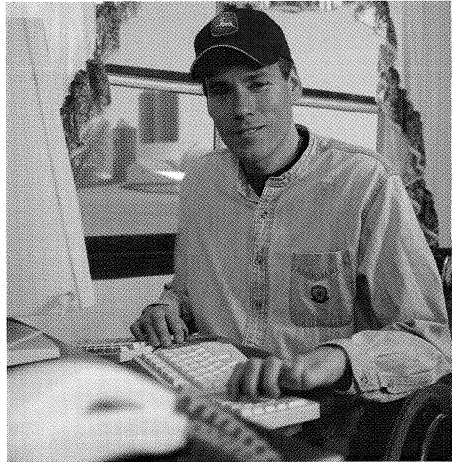
EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

There are literally thousands of devices that can increase productivity and improve the quality of life for rural Kansans with disabilities. Some general examples will illustrate the possibilities.

Many rural homes, recreational activities, and educational situations can be adapted to include assistive technology. Modifications such as ramps and grab bars are as useful in rural homes as they are in urban settings. Similarly, all-terrain vehicles, ramps for mounting horses, and motorized carts for recreation can be successfully adapted. And rural students can benefit from computers, adapted keyboards, assistive listening and communications devices.

More specialized assistive technologies enable farmers with disabilities to continue working. Electronics, centralized controls, hydraulics, monitoring systems, and computers lend themselves to adaptation.

Wheelchair lifts, control modifications, grab bars, and other adaptations make it possible for farmers with disabilities to operate farm machinery. There are adaptations for opening gates, checking fences, servicing equipment, and operating service vehicles. Adaptations to computers, keyboards, programs, and furniture allow them to handle their business transactions and farm smarter.



SUPPORT SERVICES

For many Kansans with disabilities, education, practical guidance, and technical assistance can be more important than the devices they use. We are increasing public awareness that people with disabilities can and do work in agriculture. Strategies have been developed to supply rural service providers with information. Best of all, the number of direct services is increasing.

Assessment. Assistive Technology for Kansans and Kansas Rehabilitation Service will assess and suggest modifications to worksites based on the needs of the individual. Staff members will provide guidance for restructuring tasks for the individual's capabilities, suggest ways to modify equipment and review methods of preventing secondary injury.

Adaptation. We can assist with equipment loans, fabrication, and financing. Training and instructions are also available.

Assistance. Direct assistance includes working with families to identify and coordinate resources in rural communities. Staff might assist in forming peer support groups or advocates for individuals and families. Anyone living in a rural community who has a physical, cognitive, or illness related disability may qualify for these services.