

# CAB CAMERAS

Safe and successful use of equipment is vital to all agricultural operations.



Photo: Abbie Spackman / AgrAbility PA / Penn State

**An injury, pain, or a disability can impact the ability to operate equipment effectively, which decreases overall farm productivity and safety.**

Back and neck pain, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, and many other health conditions can affect one's ability to properly monitor implements pulled behind the tractor and check surroundings. It is also important to consider secondary injury that could occur during equipment operation.

"Repetitive movements, as well as prolonged static positions of the head and neck may lead to symptoms of muscle strain, joint deformity, and nerve compression. This results in pain, muscle weakness, and interferes with the farmer's comfort while operating farm equipment," said Dwight Heller, a licensed OT practitioner who works with AgrAbility PA farmers.

Adding assistive technology to equipment can help maintain or improve one's ability to monitor their surroundings. One type of assistive technology to consider is a cab camera, also known as a backup camera. For many farmers, this device can help them return to safe and independent equipment operation.

Cab cameras are like backup cameras that come in many newer vehicles and come in many configurations with a range of functions. Basic cab cameras include a monitor that mounts in the cab and a camera that mounts on the outside of the equipment at the needed location and angle. Some options include hardwired or wireless cameras, multiple cameras, magnetic cameras, etc.

## Where to Find Cab Cameras

**Check with local equipment dealers or contact AgrAbility PA. Here are two examples:**



CabCAM™ Camera System  
7" Color LCD Screen

**[thecabcam.com](http://thecabcam.com)**



Swift Hitch SH02D System  
Waterproof, Digital, Portable,  
Wireless

**[swifthitch.com](http://swifthitch.com)**



Photos: Shawn Ehlers / National AgrAbility Project

## Adding a cab camera allows a farmer to view what is around the equipment without having to turn their head or body:

- Improving ergonomics and eliminating strain on neck, shoulders, and back
- Increasing productivity by reducing the number of times on and off equipment
- Increasing safety by enabling a farmer to better see people and objects

## Financial Assistance

Consider a Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) mini-loan. These loans (between \$100 and \$2,000) have a 0% interest rate and no fees. If considering a device or modification that costs more than \$2,000, PATF offers low-interest loans.

PATF is a program for Pennsylvania residents who need assistive technology devices and/or services. PATF helps people of all ages, income levels, disabilities, and health conditions. Unlike a bank or credit union, PATF takes a holistic view of every applicant and can provide financing to people who may not qualify for a typical bank loan. An applicant must demonstrate an ability and willingness to repay a loan. **“Even if you aren’t looking for a loan, we help people find funding resources for all kinds of technology, adaptations, and devices,”** said Tracy Beck, PATF’s Operations Director.

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*Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF), founded in 1998, provides education and financing opportunities and advocates for people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians, helping them to acquire assistive technology devices and services that improve the quality of their lives. It is headquartered in King of Prussia, PA and uses a network of Funding Assistance Coordinators across the state to assist prospective borrowers.*

**AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians is a statewide partnership between Penn State Extension and UCP Central PA.**  
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