

CAB CAMERAS

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



Photo: Abbie Spackman / 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, and more.

Where to Find Cab Cameras

Check with local equipment dealers or contact AgrAbility PA for assistance.

Here are two examples:



CabCAM™ Camera System
7" Color LCD Screen
thecabcam.com



Swift Hitch SH02D Waterproof,
Digital, Portable, Wireless
System
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 climbing in and out of equipment
- Increasing safety by enabling a farmer to better see people and objects around equipment

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 can offer to extend a low-interest loan with an interest rate of 3.75%.

Who is eligible to apply? 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.

Cab cameras allow farmers to see the landscapes around them -- giving them greater ease and increased safety while operating equipment.

AgrAbility
Cultivating Accessible Agriculture
for Pennsylvanians

Phone: 814.867.5288

Email: agrability@psu.edu

Website: agrabilitypa.org

 **PENNSYLVANIA
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
FOUNDATION**

Phone: 484.674.0506

Email: patf@patf.us

Website: patf.us

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