



# FenceLine

Minnesota AgrAbility Peer Support Network



Name: Mike Arens

Age: 43

Lives: Fulda, Minnesota

Farms: Corn, soybeans and feeder cattle

Injury: traumatic brain injury and a hip injury from a truck accident

Barriers: Mike has difficulty with problem solving, decision-making and memory. He has lifting and carrying restrictions.

Mike uses a skid steer to feed the cattle and to clean the barn. This provides a barrier between Mike and the cattle. A large animal's behavior can be unpredictable and having a barrier between himself and the cattle protects Mike.



Mike continues to farm with a neighbor. They have worked out an agreement where Mike provides the manpower and the neighbor provides assistance with problem solving and decision-making. Mike is able to use the neighbor's larger equipment which cuts down the amount of lifting, tractor step climbing and amount of time required to finish tasks in the spring and fall. Mike fatigues easily and has learned to take frequent breaks and limit his workday.