

**Alvin Blaha** resides in Dinwiddie County in the Eastern part of Virginia. He is a longtime soybean farmer who suffered a serious rupture of his aorta, resulting in emergency surgery. Consequently Alvin lost enough of his upper body strength that it inhibited his ability in farming. This included his ability to pull himself up into his International Harvester combine. With his keen eye and resourcefulness he discovered the remnants of an old John Deere tractor ladder. AgrAbility Virginia worked with Alvin and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, Virginia to design steps that are now attached to the International. Today Alvin simply walks up the steps into his combine, and by pulling a lever he retracts the steps so he can then go about his work.