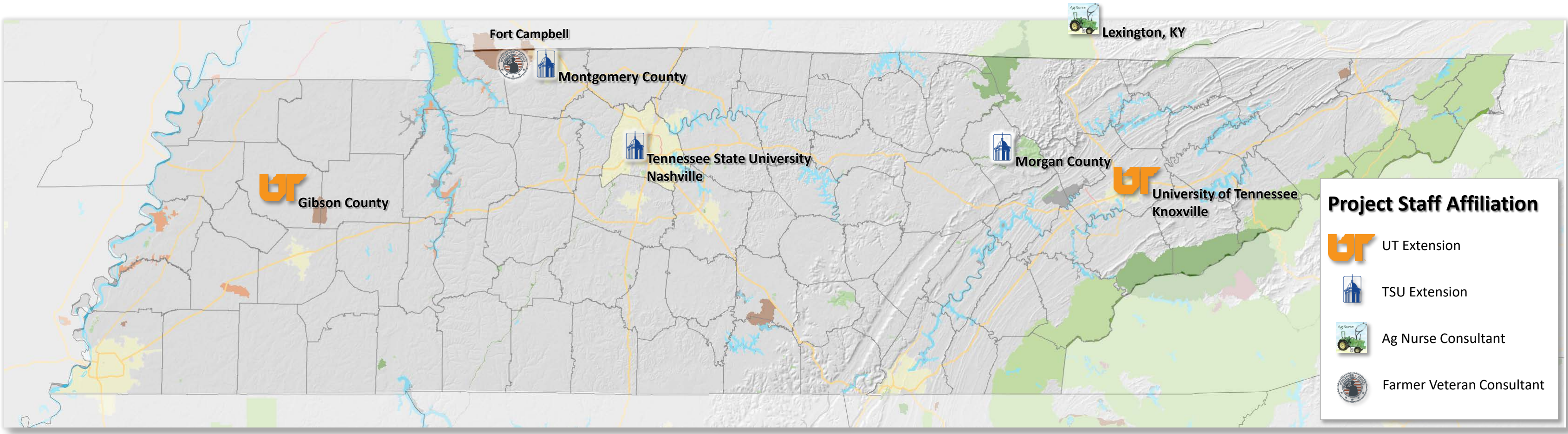


Tennessee Beginning Farmers Development Project

Tim Prather, Extension Specialist, Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science Department
David Hughes, Professor, Agricultural And Resource Economics Department
University of Tennessee Extension, Knoxville, TN
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Overall Goal

Provide a coordinated, systematic and holistic educational program to deliver the research-based information and skills needed to realize a successful new farming operation and increase success rates of new farm start-ups among those participating in the program.

New farmers will gain an understanding of:

- opportunities and risks of entering farming,
- safety and health risks of farming,
- business skills, and
- sources of expertise and assistance.

Target Audiences

The program is open to all new and aspiring farmers in Tennessee that are eligible to participate in Extension programs.

Targeted audiences for the program include:

- Military veterans and active duty preparing for discharge
- People with disabilities (in conjunction with AgrAbility).

Program Partners

UT and TSU Extension programs, including:

- Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science
- Agricultural Economics & Resource Development
- AgrAbility
- Center for Profitable Agriculture
- MANAGE
- Master Beef Producer
- Master Beekeeper
- Master Gardener
- Tennessee New Farmer Academy
- Other Beginning Farmer initiatives.

Consultants:

- AgNURSE
- Farmer Veteran Coordinator.

Additional partners/collaborators include:

- Farmer Veterans Coalition, other veteran groups
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
- Tennessee Farm Bureau
- USDA Service Agencies: FSA, NRCS, RD
- United Services Organization (USO) / RP6
- War Gardens
- TN Farm Link.

Where

Initial service areas for the program:

- Montgomery County / U.S. Army Fort Campbell vicinity due to the large and increasing veteran population
- Morgan County and East Tennessee where there are numerous small farms and new specialty crops interests.

The program will expand statewide in years 2-3.

Objectives

Provide research-based farm planning, management and production educational program to develop the skill needed to and increase success rates of new farm start-ups:

- New farmers will create a written:
 - business plan,
 - marketing plan,
 - safety and health plan, and
 - farm budget.
- Military personnel and veterans desiring to transition into farming after their tenure in the military will learn skills needed for a successful agricultural enterprise.
- AgrAbility will assist people with disabilities seeking assistance needed to continue farming, or to transition into agricultural enterprises.

In addition to gaining needed farming and farm management skills, developing written business plans and budgets will be beneficial when seeking assistance such as loans and cost-sharing grants.

Activities

Programs and activities offered include increasing beginning and aspiring farmers knowledge and skills through:

- TSU New Farmer Academy adapted to needs in locales where offered
- Master Beef Producer
- Master Gardener
- Farm Business Management workshops
- Farm Taxes and Estate Planning.

Extension program offerings developed/expanded will include:

- Farm tours
- Field days and workshops
- On-farm assessments and counseling
- Mentoring, apprenticeships, internships.

How



<https://www.facebook.com/hellbenderhops>

Offer a variety of education and training opportunities for beginning farmers:

- Adapt TSU *New Farmer Academy* to local interests and needs
- Local Extension workshops
- Farm tours
- Field days and workshops
- On-farm assessments, counseling and education
- Mentoring, apprenticeships, internships
- Producer-led demonstration/research projects
- Travel stipends to participate in conferences, workshops
- Project website
- AgNURSE Facebook and fact sheets.

Outcomes

Anticipated participant outcomes include:

- 40 new farmer veterans actively involved in sustainable farming operations by 2020
- Additional 20 active duty military personnel with farming plans to be implemented closer to military retirement
- 15 beginning farmer mentorships or apprenticeships will be provided
- 10 non-veteran new farmers will be involved in a sustainable farming operation
- 45 new farmers will establish a stable financial plan utilizing the University of Tennessee MANAGE Program
- 60 producers will be participate/enroll in services provided by partnering agencies/organizations
- 45 program participants will complete training that provides better agriculture practice principles.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/beginningfarmers>

