Strategic Investments to Ensure Long-Term Success of Veteran-Owned and Advanced Beginning Farms

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Project Audience

- Who are we aiming to help?
  - Where are they: **New York State**
  - Who are they:
    - **Veterans currently or interested in farming**
    - **Beginning farmers with 3-9 years experience**
  - Type of farming/ranching/forest management: **all types**
  - Stage of farming: **from exploring to 9 years of experience**

Key Approaches

- Aim 1.1: Create a statewide service provider network for organizations to support agriculture training for veterans

- Aim 1.2: Demonstrate multiple education strategies to engage Veterans interested in farming
  - Intensive 5-day Armed to Farm training program
  - Regional farmer-to-farmer learning groups for vets
  - On the Job Training

Key Approaches

- Aim 2.1: Utilize "New Farm Profit teams" to improve entrepreneurship, business training and planning

- Aim 2.2: Create advanced enterprise online courses to support farm diversification and risk management

- Aim 2.3: Design Intensive Training Programs focused on scaling up equipment and wholesale market readiness

Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- **40 Traditional Veteran and/or Agriculture service** providers increase the skills and knowledge they need to support veterans in farming.

- **50 Veterans** increase farming knowledge or improve current farm businesses.

- **30 Advanced Beginning farms** hosting New Farm Profit Teams report 20% improvement to farm profitability or success as defined by the farm.

- **250 farmers** report learning new information to diversify current production or reduce farm risks as a result of participating in new online courses created by this project.

Expertise and Skills to Share

- Online education of beginning farmers

- Professional development of Ag and other service providers

- Organizing Farmer Summits to prioritize actions

What do we hope to learn from other projects?

- Best practices to engage the VA and other traditional veteran service providers

- Successful strategies to encourage veteran participation in programs

- Models for new farmer leadership development

- Evaluation strategies that are not cumbersome to farmers

Keep in touch!

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