



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Armed to Farm: Soldiering the Success of Military Veterans in New Poultry, Livestock and Agroforestry Enterprises

Dan Donoghue

University of Arkansas

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Award No. 2015-70017-22898



Project Audience

Who are you aiming to help?

Where are they:

- *National scope*
- *Primarily focused in Arkansas, Missouri and North Carolina*

Who are they:

- *Returning war veterans*
- *Spanish speaking population & Native Americans*
- *Women*
- *New Farmers*

Type of farming/ranching/forest management:

- *Poultry*
- *Diversified Livestock*
- *Agroforestry*

Stage of farming:

- *Any stage of farming*
- *Workshops and boot camps target the beginning audience*
- *Internships are customized for any level of farming knowledge and interest of the intern*



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Partners/Collaborators

- Partners:

University of Arkansas

USDA-Agricultural Research Service

- Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center, Booneville, AR
- Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit, Fayetteville, AR

National Center for Appropriate Technology

The Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri

Appalachian State University

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Farmer Veteran Coalition

Across the Creek Farm, Veteran Mentor

- Collaborators:

Arkansas Women in Agriculture

Heifer International



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY





Key Approaches

Workshops/Armed to Farm Boot Camps

Agroforestry Academy

- July 2015 at University of Missouri
- 40% of participants were veterans sponsored through BFRDP Grant
- Gained knowledge and skills through lectures and hands on experience in agroforestry practices:
 - Silvopasture
 - Elderberry production
 - Alley cropping
 - Forest farming
 - Marketing



Online Training Programs

- 35 modules available for free in both English and Spanish
- Adding new modules and video



Internships and Hands-on Training

- Over 1000 hours logged to date, majority are veteran intern hours

Networking and mentoring services

- Networking session
- Sponsored 46 veteran farmers and spouses for Southern SAWG 2015



Overall Target Outcome

New Farmer Online Training Program

- Initial grant had 24,000 downloads
- Expected to reach 10,000 with current grant

Armed to Farm workshops, on farm demonstration and internship programs

- Expect to train 300 farmers through workshops, internships and demonstrations
- Currently working with 30 beginning and/or veteran farmers through workshops and internships

Networking and mentoring services

- Expected to have 400 individuals participate in conferences and farmer training programs
- Sponsored 46 veteran farmers and spouses for Southern SAWG in Mobile, AL, Jan. 2015
- Opening registration soon to support veterans at 2016 meeting



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What do you have to share?

- Free access and use of our online Beginning Farmer training course
www.attra.ncat.org/uofa/
- Veteran networking session at Southern SAWG
 - January 27-30th in Lexington, KY
- Connections with veteran mentors/opportunities
- Marketing program
 - Magnets



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Best practices for working with interns
- Ideas for intern housing
- Creative ideas for helping small farmers with education and farm practices
- Innovative marketing strategies for small farmers



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Keep in touch!

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