



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Arcadia's Veteran Farmer Program

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Food & Agriculture

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No. 2015-70017-04576



Project Audience

- Arcadia's Veteran Farmer Program
 - Military Veterans
 - Program participants will come from other areas, but we hope they begin farming in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.
 - Various stages of agriculture experience from exploring, to planning, to start-up
 - Early focus on small-scale, sustainable, fruit and vegetable production with progression into other areas of interest



Partners/Collaborators

- Who are the key people on your team?
 - Arcadia Staff: Training, Project Coordination
 - Farmer Veteran Coalition: Peer to peer education, career counselling
 - Local Farmers, Business Professionals, Veterans
Community: Mentors and Advisors
 - Outside Assistance from Extension, Local EDA, VA, DOL,
Farm Credit: Supplemental Training



Key Approach

- Multi-Track Program
 - Veteran Farm Fellowship: Full Time, Paid, 2-Year Program
 - Farmer Reserve Program: Part Time, Tuition, 1 Year
- On-the job Training and Externship for Fellowship
- Weekend Workshop-style Training for Reserves
- Advisory Committees
- Mentoring
- Ongoing Market Support
- Land Access in Future Years (Planned Incubator, Land Acquisition Assistance)



Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this 1-Year Development Grant Project, we will have helped:

- 11 Beginning Farmers (100% veterans) receive training, develop business plans, and begin on the path toward their farming career
- Establish a network of Farm Mentors and Veteran Farmer Advisors



What do you have to share?

- Program Methodology and Curriculum
- Experience in Sustainable Agriculture
- Holistic Approach to Farmer Development and Support
- Connections and Proximity to Washington, DC



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Curriculum and Methodology
- Utilization of Outside Expertise and On-line Resources
- Long-term Sustainability of Programs



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Keep in touch!

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