Arcadia’s Veteran Farmer Program

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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
Keep in touch!

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