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

Anu Rangarajan

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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!

Anu Rangarajan ar47@cornell.edu

Matt Weiss mw84@cornell.edu

http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/