



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Infrastructure, Access, And Community: A Plan To Support Beginning Farmers In Indiana

Kevin Gibson

Purdue University

Program Award No 2014-07316



Project Audience

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Indiana
 - Small acreage farms, military veterans
 - Broad interests (fruit and vegetable, livestock, urban)
 - Exploring to established (under 10 years)
- Extension Educators
 - We will provide resources and training to help them work with beginning farmers and ranchers, particularly military veterans



Partners/Collaborators

Extension Educators

Roy Ballard*, Hancock County
Kelly Heckaman, Kosciusko County
Mike Hornbach, Dearborn County
Michael O'Donnell*, Delaware County
Maria Restrepo-Turner, Pike County
Kathleen Sprouse, Madison County
Emily Toner, Marion County
Amy Thompson, Monroe County
Miranda Ulery, Harrison County

Campus-based Personnel

Tamara Benjamin*, project
coordinator
Cindy Chastain, AgrAbility
Bill Field*, AgrAbility
Kevin Gibson*, lead PD
Zhao Ma*, FNR (evaluator)

Local Growers Guild

Cheryl Carter Jones*, President

*Leadership team (PI or co-PI)



Key Approaches

- Provide support and training for Extension Educators
- Offer workshops and an annual short course
- Develop a “one-stop shopping” website
- Increase interactions among experienced and beginning farmers by establishing a series of themed farm tours, an online “Ask A Farmer” program, and farmer breakfasts
- Partner with AgrAbility to expand opportunities for Veterans
- Evaluate the effectiveness of our programs



Overall Target Outcome

- 440 people will participate in structured training activities (workshops, short courses, field trips)
 - 20 participants will begin a new farming or ranching enterprise
 - 160 participants will be better prepared to start farming
 - 260 participants will report improvements in farm management or profitability
- 60 Extension Educators will receive training related to working with military Veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers.



What will you have to share?

- Website highlighting Purdue resources
- Materials for Extension Educators to help them work with small-acreage beginning farmers and military veterans
- Content from workshops



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Experience integrating resources and efforts across multiple organizations (university, Extension, NRCS, non-profit, etc.).
- Ways to optimize use of existing content as we develop our online media.



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My contact info:

Kevin Gibson

Botany and Plant Pathology

Purdue University

kgibson@purdue.edu

(765) 496-2161 work

(765) 427-9002