



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Organic Farming Program

Presented by Justin Barclay
Veteran Farming Program Coordinator

Project Directors: Jeff Moyer & Dr. Ricotta

Rodale Institute & Delaware Valley University

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
Award Number 2015-70017-22855



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Project Audience

Who are you aiming to help?

- Where are they: Mid-Atlantic region and beyond
- Who are they: veterans interested in organic farming and other interested organic farmers
- Type of farming: Organic agriculture, CSA/ASC business models
- Stage of farming: new farmers, or those wishing to transition from conventional to organic farming



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Partners/Collaborators

Who are the key people on your team?

- Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute, Executive Director, Project Director
- Dr. Jacqueline Ricotta, Delaware Valley University, Co-Project Director
- Emily Boell, Delaware Valley University, Organic Farming Program Coordinator
- Myself, Justin Barclay, Rodale Institute, Veteran Farming Program Coordinator



Key Approach

- 1 Year Organic Farming Certificate Program (Fall & Spring Semesters at DelVal + Summer Semester at Rodale Institute)
 - 12 credits/semester for 36 total credits
 - Ability to roll over credits into a bachelors degree program
 - Rolling enrollment option
- Incubator farm placement assistance
- Continued Mentoring & Technical assistance

Summer Semester at Rodale Campus

| Course Number | Course Title | Credits |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| PS 1301 | Plant Health Management | 3 |
| PS 1302 | Soil Biology | 3 |
| PS 9903 | Farm Practicum III | 6 |

Fall Semester at Delaware Valley University

| Course Number | Course Title | Credits |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| AS 1006 | Introduction to Animal Science | 3 |
| PS 2240 | Organic Food and Fiber | 3 |
| PS 4106 | Marketing of Horticultural Products | 2 |
| PS 9901 | Farm Practicum I | 4 |

Spring Semester at Delaware Valley University

| Course Number | Course Title | Credits |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| PS 2211 | Commercial Vegetable Production | 3 |
| PS 2235 | Principles of Sustainable Agriculture | 2 |
| PS 3240 | Integrated Pest Management | 3 |
| PS 9902 | Farm Practicum II | 4 |



Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, our goal is to help:

- 50 students earn their Organic Farming Program Certificate; with 45 graduates starting their own organic enterprises
- Prior to the BFRDP Grant, all the students were veterans with 6 total veterans in the 2013 & 2014 cohorts with most continuing their education at DeVal



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What do you have to share?

- Rodale Institute Mission: Through organic leadership we improve the health and well-being of people and the planet. With over 65 years of organic agriculture expertise and 34 years of conventional vs. organic research through our Farm Systems Trial
- Delaware Valley University: Founded in 1896, DeVal has grown from an agricultural school to an academically rigorous institution dedicated to the sciences and liberal arts. In the words of their founder, Joseph Krauskopf, we take “science with practice” seriously.
- Veterans Affairs (VA) and certificate programs—an advertising challenge



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Recruitment and Advertising strategies
- University/College & non-profit partnerships
- Expanding the network of veteran & organic farmers



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Keep in touch!

Contact Information:

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