



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

The National Farmer Veteran Project

Michael O’Gorman

Farmer Veteran Coalition

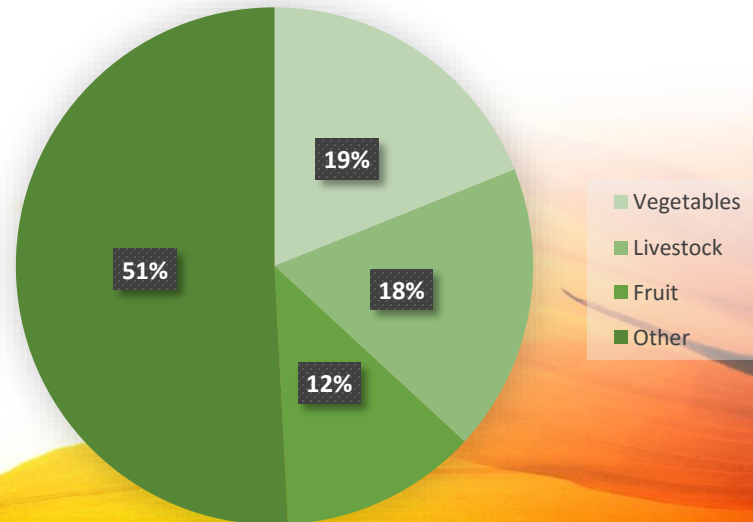
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No 2015-70017-22943



Project Audience

- Who are you aiming to help?
 - Where: National
 - Who: Veterans and Active Duty
 - Type of farming/ranching/forest management:
 - 18.91% vegetables
 - 17.97% livestock
 - 12.29% fruit
 - Stage of farming:
 - 37.78% less than a year,
 - 13.33% 1-2yrs,
 - 11.67% 2-3yrs,
 - 6.11% 3-4yrs,
 - 31.11% 4+ yrs.

Top Types of Agriculture
Among FVC Members





Partners/Collaborators

- Who are the key people on your team?
 - Gary Matteson, The Farm Credit Council, Co-PD
 - Dr. Lisa Hightower, American Farm Bureau Federation, Co-PD
 - Cindy Chastain, The National AgrAbility Project, Co-PD

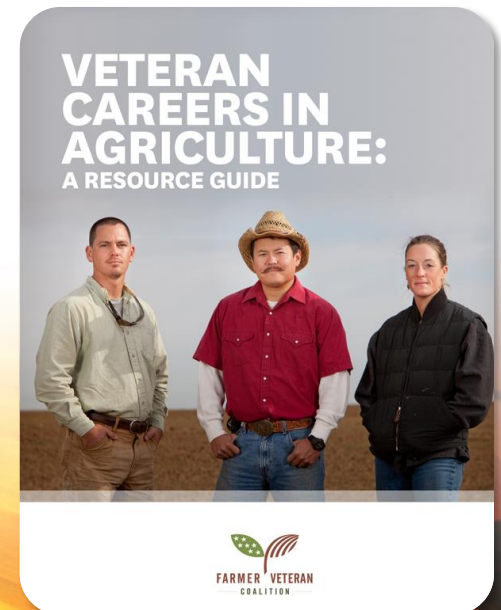


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Key Approach(es)

- How are you helping? List key elements, any unusual features, e.g.
 - Veteran-to-Veteran Peer Network
 - Workshops/courses/demonstrations
 - Veteran Resource Guide
 - Mentoring
 - Technical assistance





Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this development grant project, we will have:

- Trained 175 beginning farmer veterans and ranchers.
- Increased agricultural capacity among 155 beginning farmer veterans and ranchers.
- Created 15 mentor and 250 organizational relationships between beginning farmer veterans, seasoned farmers and FVC.
- Disseminated 1,200 beginning farmer veteran resource guides.

What do you have to share?

Lessons learned:

- Beginning farmer veterans respond best to direct, peer-to-peer experiential training
 - Local setting
 - Small groups
 - One-on-one
- Best outcomes are achieved through a continuing supportive relationship
 - Training
 - Technical assistance
 - Advocacy
 - Mentoring

How to apply these lessons:

- Refined and improved service strategies,
 - Use peer-to-peer outreach and education components
- Revised case management strategy to
 - Provide individualized comprehensive development services



What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Best practices in providing assistance to beginning farmer veterans
- Opportunities to collaborate to extend and enhance assistance to veterans transitioning into agriculture





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Keep in touch!

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