

# Farmer Veteran Coalition

---



# FVC Mission

---





The mission of the Farmer Veteran Coalition is to *Mobilize Veterans to Feed America.*

# What We Believe



- We believe that veterans possess the unique skills and character needed to strengthen rural communities
- We believe that food production offers purpose, opportunity, and physical and psychological benefits.

# Why Vets and Farming?



- ◉ The average age of a U.S. Farmer is 57 yrs old. For every 2 retiring, 1 begins
- ◉ *Rural America makes up 1/6 of the population of the United States; those who serve us in uniform, 45%...*

• *Vilsack February 18, 2010*

# FVC Principles

---



# One

---

- We guide the passion of our veterans so that they may earn for themselves a meaningful and financially sustainable place in the agricultural community.
- We provide training, mentorship, and financial assistance to veterans in agriculture.

# One Continued

---



- We recognize the tremendous range of opportunities that exist for employment throughout the agricultural economy.
- We value the contributions made by all members of the agricultural industry.



# Two

---

- We acknowledge the plurality of agricultural practices available to our veterans. We honor, guide, and support the practical farming path chosen by each veteran.



# Three

---



- We are committed to leveraging our work through a network of partnerships. We support all valid national, regional, or crop-specific efforts to connect veterans with agriculture and encourage collaboration instead of competition with other groups providing services to our nation's veterans.

# Four

---

- We support and treat the whole veteran. We are aware of the high number of veterans that return with both visible and invisible wounds. We also recognize the geographic and psychological isolation common to both farmers and veterans.

# Four Continued

---

- Creating a network of Farmer Veterans and with that, sense of community is an important part of our mission.



# FVC Programs

---



# What does FVC do?

- Informational resources on beginning farming operations
- Provides information on federal programs
- Apprenticeships and Internships
- Assessment tools



# What FVC does continued...

---



- Mentorships
- Educational retreats
- Small grants
- We cater our services to each vet *individually* as different areas and types of agriculture have different needs and resources.

# The Fellowship Fund

- The FVC Fellowship Fund allows us to provide small grants (\$5000) on a case by case basis to assist veterans with start up costs associated with beginning operations or receive technical training in the Ag field.





# The Fellowship Fund Cont.

---



- To date we have re-granted almost \$200,000 since April 2011
- Many of our grantees are severely disabled
- Some of our Fellows are now employing several of their peers

# FVC Vital Stats



- FVC currently has a network of over 600 veterans in 47 states
- We are working with partner agencies in over 25 states and counting
- FVC is set to launch as an independent 501c3 in early 2013

# Our Vets

● Our vets are involved in a wide variety of Agricultural fields:

- Fruit and Vegetables
- Poultry
- Maple Syrup production
- Vineyards/ wine production
- Ranching and mixed livestock
- Aquaponics





Contact us: [info@farmvetco.org](mailto:info@farmvetco.org)

[www.farmvetco.org](http://www.farmvetco.org)

☉ Ph.530-756-1395

Fax.530-756-1612