

**Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference
InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza
401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64112
November 14-17, 2018**

Wednesday

14 November

01:30 pm – 05:00 pm	State Chapters Meeting	Rooftop Bar
02:00 pm – 07:00 pm	Registration	Pavilion Pre-Function

Thursday

15 November

07:00 am – 09:00 am	Exhibitor Set-up	Salon 1A, 1B
08:00 am – 09:00 am	Registration	Ballroom Pre-Function
09:00 am – 10:30 am	Welcoming Address	Salon 2, 3
	Call to Order – Col. Ken DeVan (Ret.) , President, Kansas Farmer Veteran Coalition	
	Presentation of Colors	Kansas National Guard
	National Anthem	Kansas National Guard
	Pledge of Allegiance	
	Invocation – James McCormick , President, West Virginia Farmer Veteran Coalition	
	Welcome to Missouri - Chris Chinn , Director of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Agriculture	
	Zippy Duvall , President, American Farm Bureau Federation	
	Michael O’Gorman , Executive Director, Farmer Veteran Coalition	
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break and Snack – Exhibit Floor Open	Salon 1A, 1B
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<i>Breakout Sessions</i>	
	Ag Careers – Employment Opportunities in Agriculture	Pavilion 3
	Moderator: Len Monaco , Acting Chief Operating Officer, Farmer Veteran Coalition	
	1. Matt Smiley , Farmer, Jacobs Farm/Del Cabo	
	2. Victor Hernandez , Outreach Coordinator and Sociologist, USDA NRCS	
	3. Matt Keesling , Dairy Farm Apprentice/Pasture Manager, Bures’ Family Farm	
	Animal Production - Beekeeping	Rooftop Ballroom
	Moderator: Adam Ingraio , Agricultural Entomologist Educator, Veteran Liaison, Michigan State University Extension	
	1. Alejandro Jauregui , Beekeeper, Fury Bees & Pollination	
	2. Col. Gary LaGrange (Ret.) , Founder and President, Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education	

Crop Production – Berry Production Plaza Room

Moderator: **Rachel Petitt**, Fellowship Fund Manager, Farmer Veteran Coalition

1. **Patrick Byers**, Field Specialist in Horticulture, University of Missouri Extension
2. **Ken DeVan**, Blueberry Farmer and Beekeeper
3. **Shane Mathis**, Blackberry Grower Big Springs Berries

Crop Production - Hydroponic Greenhouse Production Pavilion 2

Moderator: **Michael O’Gorman**, Executive Director, Farmer Veteran Coalition

Colin Archipley, Co-Founder, Archi’s Acres and Archi’s Institute of Sustainable Agriculture

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm

Break

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Buffet

Salon 2, 3

Col. Cindy Chastain (Ret.), Veteran Outreach Coordinator, National AgrAbility Project, Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue University

01:30 pm – 03:00 pm

Plenary Session: Government Partners Panel

Salon 2, 3

Moderator: **Lt. Col. Keith W. Wilson**, US Army, Regional Director, Northeast US and Europe

1. US Department of Agriculture: **Bill Ashton**, Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison, Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement
2. US Department of Defense: **Mike Miller**, Chief of Private and Public Engagement
3. US Department of Labor: **Theo Coney**, Kansas State Director, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS)
4. US Department of Veterans Affairs: **Karen Besterman-Dahan, PhD, RD**, Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
5. US Small Business Administration: **Thomas Salisbury**, SBA Region VII Administrator

03:00 pm – 03:15 pm

Break and Snack

Salon 1A, 1B

03:15 pm – 04:45 pm

Breakout Sessions

Crop Production – Agroforestry: Maximize Your Land’s Earning Potential

Pavilion 3

Moderator/Panelist: **Michael A Gold**, Interim Director, The Center for Agroforestry, Agroforestry Graduate Emphasis Area Coordinator, Research Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri

1. **Larry Godsey, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness, Missouri Valley College, former Economist, Center for Agroforestry, Veteran, Missouri National Guard
2. **Staff Sgt. Meredith Evans**, Air National Guard in NW Missouri, MS in Agroforestry
3. **Marie Ryberg**, Farmer Veteran, Center for Agroforestry’s Agroforestry Academy in 2018 Graduate

Ag Careers - Apprenticeships Rooftop Ballroom
 Moderator: **Jose A. Velazquez**, Deputy Administrator, Operations and Regional Management, Office of Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration

1. **Marisa Alcorta**, CA Farm Academy Apprenticeship Manager, Center for Land-Based Learning
2. **James McCormick**, Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Agriculture
3. **Joe Tomandl**, Director, Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship

Business and Finance – What VBOCs Can Do for You Plaza Room
Darcella Craven, President, Veterans Business Resource Center, Missouri

Business and Finance – USDA at Your Service Pavilion 2

1. FSA – **Jessica Claypole**, Public Affairs/Outreach Specialist
2. NRCS – **Gorman Bennett**, District Conservationist and Missouri NRCS Veterans Emphasis Program Manager
3. RMA – **Jeff Darrow**, Risk Management Analyst, Topeka Regional Office

04:45 pm – 05:30 pm Break

05:30 pm – 07:00 pm Cocktail Reception Salon 2, 3

07:00 pm – 09:00 pm Dinner on Your Own

Friday

16 November

07:04 am Sunrise flag-raising ceremony at National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame, Bonner Springs, Kansas | Organizer: Col. Ken DeVan (Ret.)

07:00 am – 01:00 pm Exhibit/Tradeshow Salon 1A, 1B

08:00 am – 09:00 am Registration Ballroom Foyer

08:00 am – 08:45 am Continental Breakfast Salon 1A, 1B

09:00 am – 10:30 am Plenary Session Salon 2, 3

Jackie McClaskey, PhD, Secretary of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Susan Metzger, Senior Executive Administrator, Kansas State University College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension

Lt. Gen. Mike Dodson (Ret.), Chairman of the Board, Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education (SAVE)

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break and Snack Salon 1A, 1B

10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<p><i>Breakout Sessions</i></p> <p>Animal Production - Aquaculture Pavilion 3 Moderator: Dean Koyanagi, Farmer Veteran Program Associate, Cornell Small Farms Program Daniel Barth, Owner, Patriot Shellfish Farms</p> <p>Animal Production – Pastured Poultry Plaza Room Terrell Spencer, Owner, Across the Creek Farm</p> <p>Crop Production – Food Safety and Modernization Act Rooftop Ballroom 1. Chelsea Matzen, FSMA Project Director, National Farmers Union 2. Chris Dorsey, Army Veteran, Founder and Executive Director of Warrior Farms, Program Coordinator/Veteran Liaison at the University of Georgia's Farm Again Program</p>
	<p>Business and Finance – Growing Cash Flow Pavilion 2 Gary Matteson, FVC Board Chair, VP, Farm Credit Council, Young, Beginning, Small Farmer Programs and Outreach</p>
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Break
12:30 pm – 01:30 pm	<p>Lunch Salon 2, 3 Karen Besterman-Dahan, PhD, RD, Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research</p>
02:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Ends
01:30 pm – 03:00 pm	<p><u>Plenary Session: Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Panel</u> Salon 2, 3 Moderator: Brent Elrod, National Program Leader, Community Development, USDA-NIFA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Col. Gary LaGrange (Ret.), Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education 2. Justin Myers, Recipe for Success Foundation 3. Michael O’Gorman, Farmer Veteran Coalition 4. Samuel Scott, North-South Institute 5. Joe Tomandl, Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship 6. Lovay Wallace-Singleton, Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden
03:00 pm – 03:15 pm	Break and Beverages Salon 1A, 1B
03:15 pm – 05:00 pm	<p><u>Plenary Session: Successful Farmer Veterans Panel</u> Salon 2, 3 Moderator: Brig. Gen. Charlie Kruse (Ret.), MOARNG, Vice President, Farmer Veteran Coalition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alejandro Jauregui – Beekeeper, Fury Bees & Pollination 2. Sarah Porter – Maple syrup farmer, Goodrich’s Maple Farm 3. Mike Reynolds – Cattle rancher, Reynolds Cattle Ranch 4. Kevin Schenker – Beef, lamb, pork, poultry producer, Schenker Farms

05:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Reception	Ballroom Pre-Function
06:00 pm – 08:00 pm	Dinner Kubota Video Presentation: Alex Woods Farm Credit Council Video Presentation: Gary Matteson	Salon 1A, 1B, 2

Saturday

17 November

08:00 am – 08:45 am	Light Refreshments	
09:00 am – 10:45 am	Plenary Session: Marketing Your Farm and the Homegrown By Heroes Label Moderator: Gary Matteson , FVC Board Chair, VP, Farm Credit Council, Young, Beginning, Small Farmer Programs and Outreach Homegrown By Heroes Panelists: 1. Mark Bowen 2. Sara Creech 3. Josh Eilers 4. Davon Goodwin 5. Frank Ritz	Salon 2, 3
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Closing Remarks – Michael O’Gorman and Gary Matteson Retirement of Colors	