



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE Letter



Dear Friends,

In my forty years of farming, a handful of seasons stood out, where everything seemed to work. Much of that was from the hard work that was put in year after year, whether things broke our way or not. 2019 was one of those years for Farmer Veteran Coalition – a year of tremendous growth and huge accomplishment.

FVC did not just grow in numbers in 2019 – we saw our biggest growth in existing farmers. 20% of our members now farm more than 100 acres, and 10% farm more than 250.

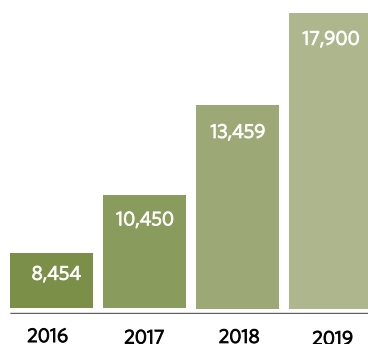
The rich experience of our members was felt at our Lone Star and Stripes: 2019 Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference in Austin. Most of the more than 70 presenters were farmer veterans, sharing their knowledge and experience with the 500 veterans in attendance.

Also, at the conference we rolled out the biggest accomplishment of the year, a total revamp of the legal structure and governance of our state chapters, clearing the path for expanding our state chapters and mobilizing veterans to feed America in the communities where our members live and farm.

With your help we have launched a movement, that our farmer veteran members themselves want to help grow for years to come. We are humbled and grateful.

Michael O'Gorman | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBER GROWTH



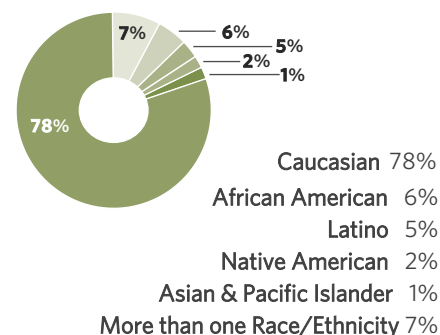
GENDER



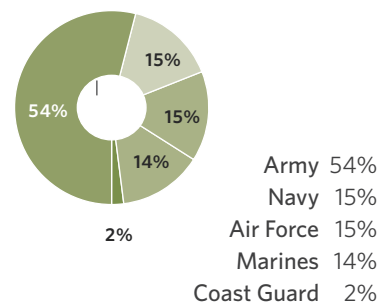
SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED



RACE/ETHNICITY



BRANCH OF SERVICE



The Homegrown By Heroes label is an agricultural food label that informs consumers a product was produced by a veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces. This label provides consumers with a tangible way to support veterans while providing an avenue to share the veteran's story.



Available to farmers, ranchers, fishermen and value-added producers who served, or are currently serving, the Homegrown By Heroes label gives farmer veterans the point-of-sale visibility needed to be successful in the marketplace.

State Partners

Farmer Veteran Coalition has partnered with 20 state departments of agriculture to promote the Homegrown By

Heroes label in their states. Eleven of these states have created a merged logo taking elements from their own 'Buy Local' logo and combining with the Homegrown By Heroes label.



Ladonna Avankian & Heather Patterson | U.S. AIR FORCE Hollyaire Farm | Junction City, OR

In the Pacific Northwest farming community of Junction City, Oregon lies a historic farm that years ago was left abandoned. Its name - Hollyaire. A 110-acre property planted to sour cherries, blackberries, and holly.

Ladonna revived all the crops, turning it into a completely working farm starting with 15 acres. It was a very labor-intensive job that took many years to tackle.

Bringing back a distinguished piece of agricultural history, this 15 acres is now known once again as Hollyaire. Ladonna kept the name intact because she thought it was beautiful. And then she brought Heather on board.

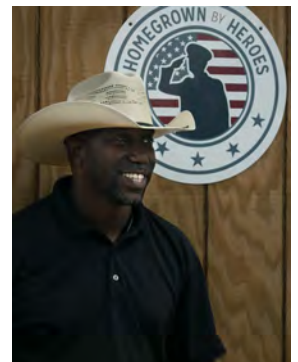


Their food does more than just nourish their community. They hire high school kids who are in athletics to help work on the farm as a way for them to raise funds to compete in their big tournaments. A high school wrestler herself, Ladonna feels compelled to mentor the students on farming techniques, and she simultaneously promotes future careers in the military.

Marvin Frink | U.S. ARMY Brairwood Cattle Farm | Fayetteville, NC

In 2015, a lifelong dream became a reality; to ensure success, Marvin continues to educate himself in cattle ranching. Although born in Florida in a drug-infested area-where his parents worked hard to keep Marvin and his siblings on the right track-Marvin was determined to be a success.

Thankful for the opportunity to help feed America and become a better person with the outstanding support from Farmer Veteran Coalition, family, close friends, and the community, success is in the near future for an American veteran who served his country proudly.

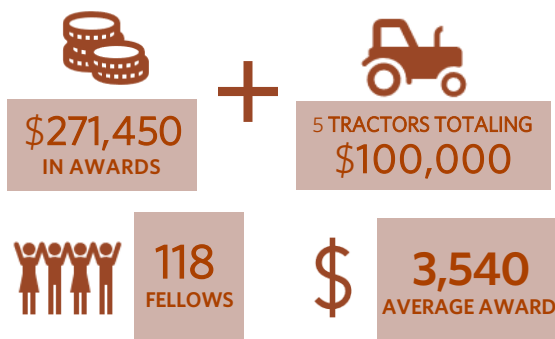


FARMER VETERAN Fellowship Fund

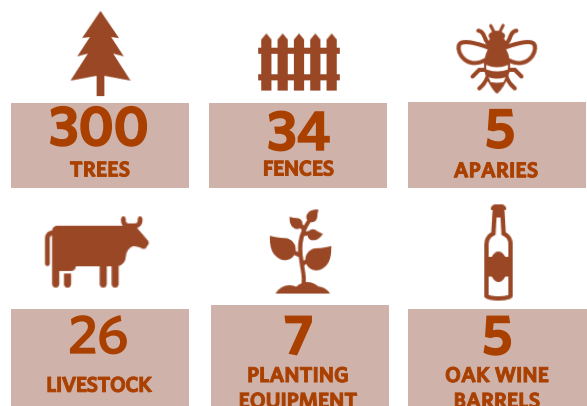
The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund is our small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in the early stages of launching their farming operations. With awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, purchases are made to third parties on behalf of the veteran for critical items such as breeding livestock, used tractors, greenhouses, irrigation systems and more.

Since it was established in 2011, the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund has awarded more than \$2.5 million in small grants thanks to generous supporters: Prudential, Bob Woodruff Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, Kubota Tractor Corporation and Prairie Grove Farms.

2019 FELLOWSHIP STATISTICS



2019 FELLOWSHIP IMPACT SNAPSHOT



Lovay Wallace-Singleton U.S. NAVY | New Bern, NC

In February of 2012, Lovay founded Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden in New Bern, North Carolina. VEBCOG provides temporary employment for post-war veterans



NORTH CAROLINA

transitioning back to civilian life and teaches urban farming entrepreneurial skills. Lovay received the Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award for her successes with employing veterans, their dependents and spouses, along with transitioning them to permanent employment while growing fruits and vegetables as a peaceful means of rehabilitation.

Last year Hurricane Florence struck the educational farm, bringing 5 feet of water in 4 days. Many repair projects loom in the wake of the flooding, and rebuilding their hoophouse is one of them. A local vendor reached out to Lovay after the hurricane, offering a discount on any equipment needed; with Altria's support, FVC granted Lovay \$4,000 to make the purchase.

Rob Jones U.S. MARINE COPRS | Fort Mill, SC

"I volunteered to join the Marine Corps, and volunteered to become a combat engineer. I wanted to do the job where someone had to put themselves in harm's way, to go out first and make sure the guys behind me were not in danger."



VIRGINIA

The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund purchased a no-till planter and transplanter for Rob that will make it significantly easier to operate his vegetable farm with reduced need to bend over, and simultaneously support his passion for regenerative agriculture.

Launched in 2015 as a partnership between Kubota Tractor Corporation and Farmer Veteran Coalition, the “Geared to Give” program provides financial support and donated Kubota equipment to U.S. Military veterans pursuing a future in farming.

The “Geared to Give” program works to identify the needs and further the agricultural careers of those who have served their country and are now serving their communities through farming. In order to be eligible for the program, a farmer veteran must have first applied for, and received, an award through the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund.

Each quarter, one farmer veteran representing each of the five geographical regions of the country — Northeastern, Southeastern, Central, Midwestern, and Western — is selected to receive a Kubota L-Series compact tractor. In 2019, the following farmer veterans were awarded a Kubota L-Series compact tractor:

1. **Jake Sass**, a U.S. Army veteran and West Point graduate who started Civil Sass Hops, in Eyota, Minnesota.
2. **Soraya Pellan**, a retired U.S. Air Force veteran who is the owner of Pellan Farms outside of Omaha, Nebraska.
3. **Brion McClintock**, a U.S. Army veteran who owns and operates The Tenpenny Farm in Gardners, Pennsylvania.
4. **Stephen Carter**, a U.S. Army veteran who owns and operate Twisted Acres Farm, a 45-acre dairy goat operation, in Bristow, Oklahoma.
5. **Russell Guzzetta**, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who owns and operates Country Song Farm in Lithia, Florida.



2019 Donors

\$200,000 and above

Farm Credit Council
United States Department of Agriculture

\$150,000 and above

Kubota Tractor Corporation
Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM)

\$100,000 and above

May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
USDA - BFRDP
Hearst Foundation
Altria Group, Inc.

\$25,000 and above

Tractor Supply
USDA - RMA
Safeway
Mental Insight
Flora Family Foundation
Roy Halstead
Vangaurd Charitable
Prudential

\$5,000 and above

Prairie Grove
Vermont Community Fund
Corteva AgriScience
Sustainable Futures Fund
Work Vessels for Vets, Inc
Cooks Company Produce
American Farm Bureau Foundation
Rose & David Dortort Foundation
National Farmers Union
Farm Credit Alliance
Colonial Farm Credit
Lucero Olive Oil

\$1,000 and above

Eight Oaks Craft Distillers
Terra Global Capital, LLC
Tadeusz Stawasz
ProAg Management Inc
Alpha Gamma Rho
Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Inc
Network for Good
Farm Credit East
Farm Focused
Agriculture & Land-Based Training Association
CHS Foundation
Barn2Door
Jason Sweatt
Beth Ellen Dixon
Farm Credit Western Marketing Alliance
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Gus Cargile III
Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine
Texas Bank and Trust
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J & M Manufacturing
Capital Farm Credit

UNFI
Texas VFW
Paul Kanning
DBL Partners
Messick Farm Equipment
National Center for Appropriate Technology
Michelle Glen
Endeavour Shen
Amy Lyman

\$500 and above

West Virginia National Guard Foundation
National Women in Ag Association
BCS America
U.S. Small Business Administration
Michigan State University
F.A.R.M.
Rodale Institute
Purdue AgrAbility
U.S. Census
David Cohn
Patrick Lejeune
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Kulesh Shanmugasundaram
United Way of Chicago
Janet Eagan
Melanie Katzman
South Carolina Farm Bureau
John Kimbrough
James Page
June Blalock
Nancy Housel
A Revolutionary Press, Inc.
Sterling Eaves
Anna Brogan

\$100 and above

W Steven Anderson
Lampeter-Strasburg
Tuskegee University
Jesse Cool
Kristi Lawler
Natalie Leschuk
Compatible Lands Foundation
Julie Kumar
Susan Leschuk
Peace Roots Alliance
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John Looney
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Elizabeth Bennett
Mary Carhartt
Juan Allen
Mary Elder

70 individuals and organizations made a contribution of less than \$100.
If we inadvertently left your name off the list, we apologize. Please let us know so you may be acknowledged in the future.



FarmVetCo.org