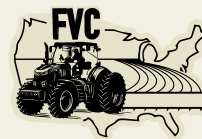




2020



ANNUAL REPORT



*Ben Martin, Marines
Dauntless Wine Co.
Forest Grove, OR*

VETERANS FARMING
THROUGH **ADVERSITY**



Founder of the Farmer Veteran Coalition PASSES THE PITCHFORK

Hands it over to
newly appointed
Executive Director
Jeanette Lombardo



Michael O’Gorman

It started as a vision in a strawberry field overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Three women who stood there alongside Michael O’Gorman had all lost their sons in Iraq or Afghanistan. Fatalities were high in 2007, and the country was deeply divided. O’Gorman’s idea of starting a campaign to create viable careers and places to heal on our nation’s farms for men and women returning from war felt electric, optimistic, and healing.

In 2008, O’Gorman’s idea sprouted its first roots when he started Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) in the back of his pick-up truck. FVC quickly grew into a national nonprofit, developing employment and meaningful careers for veterans by fostering the collaboration of the farming and military communities.

More than a decade later, O’Gorman has not only built FVC from a mere nine veteran members to over 20,000 nationwide, but has led the charge on pioneering an entire military-to-agriculture movement.

But just as the seasons change and new crops are planted in the spring, so too did the organization set new roots. After leading FVC since 2008, O’Gorman handed over his pitchfork to newly appointed Executive Director Jeanette Lombardo in July 2020.

Raised by an Air Force veteran father, Lombardo grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, on a family dairy farm. She spent decades in agricultural banking before co-founding and serving as Chief Strategic Officer for Global Water Innovations, Inc. She is also the Principal for California Food and Agribusiness Advocates with the mission of improving policy decisions for farmers in water, land use, crop protection tools, and international trade.

“My selection as Executive Director to the Farmer Veteran Coalition feels very much like fate to me,” Lombardo beams. “This role takes everything that I am and have achieved throughout my life, and utilizes it for the service of the two groups of people I admire the most: our veterans and our farmers and ranchers. I cannot think of any profession that would be more rewarding.”

Excited to leverage FVC’s growing network of partnerships, Lombardo anticipates working relationships with disability support industry specialists, ag employment recruiters, and women and minority agricultural and veteran associations. She is eager to support the expansion of FVC state chapters. All of this is right in line with O’Gorman’s beliefs and FVC’s founding principles. Every time a new veteran group popped up, he looked at every one of them not as competition but as potential partners.

For O’Gorman, the changing season signals a changing role. The founder isn’t hanging up his boots completely. His ‘retirement’ allows for a renewed commitment to his passion: vegetable production. His new role as FVC’s Chief Agricultural Officer is a return to the roots he loves so deeply.

O’Gorman reflects on what this project has meant: “Connecting veterans to agriculture was something that no one had tried in modern times. To take that idea and turn it

into what FVC is today has been the hardest thing I have done.” This from the man who built three of the country’s largest organic vegetable farms.

“Getting to work with the men and women of FVC on their own individual journeys to becoming farmers has made it the most rewarding,” he said.

— Jeanette Lombardo

FOR FARMER VETERAN COALITION,

2020 began with the exhilaration of a memorable conference in Austin, Texas.



Jeanette Lombardo

Momentum was soaring for the development of new Farmer Veteran Coalition state chapters and we started the year with a state conference in Fresno, California, in hopes of launching our California chapter. However, just when the earth was starting to spring to life, the United States came to a standstill with the pandemic state of emergencies

in March. We all quickly learned how to navigate a whole new set of vocabulary, rules, and regulations.

Despite it all, together we marched on. We were able to administer our Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund and Geared to Give programs. The entire staff was incredible as FVC Headquarters transitioned to virtual operations with internet phones and an online donation platform, and our first virtual conference. We are so very grateful for the generous support from all our donors and sponsors who believe in our mission and kept FVC strong and delivering assistance without fail throughout this demanding year.

“What surprised you during 2020?” This was an interview question I was asked at the end of the year. My response was, “the perseverance of our farmer veterans.” When consumers were confronted with empty shelves at their local grocery stores, panic ensued. Many of our farmer veterans rose to the occasion and took care of their local communities. Residents soon learned that their farmers were their neighbors and they supported them in local

farmers markets, roadside stands, and in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) businesses. Neighbors joined FVC members to maintain community gardens, learn urban agriculture techniques, plant backyard gardens, and teach themselves canning and food preservation. I was so proud to see how many FVC members donated their excess production to food banks throughout the country. This is the memory I choose to remember from all the chaos that was this year.

At the end of 2020, FVC moved down the road from our office in Davis, California, to Sacramento. Our staff continues to work remotely, while we begin our search for a new headquarters in Texas.

As FVC moves forward into 2021, there remains uncertainties ahead to maneuver. As our nation begins its economic recovery, FVC will do our part by developing relevant programming to support agricultural employment and combat food insecurity. To assist us in reacting to the immediate needs of our members, FVC will also be establishing an Advisory Board with members from each of our ten regions.

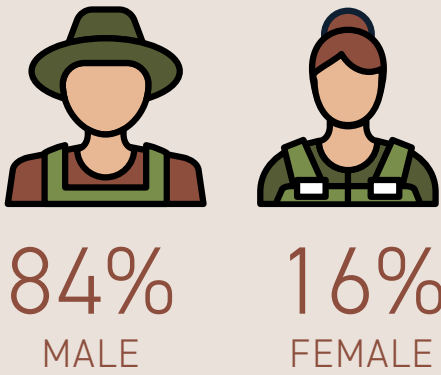
We will host two regional conferences in 2021 – in Knoxville, Tennessee, and Tacoma, Washington. I hope to see you there. Best Regards,

Jeanette Lombardo
Jeanette Lombardo
Executive Director

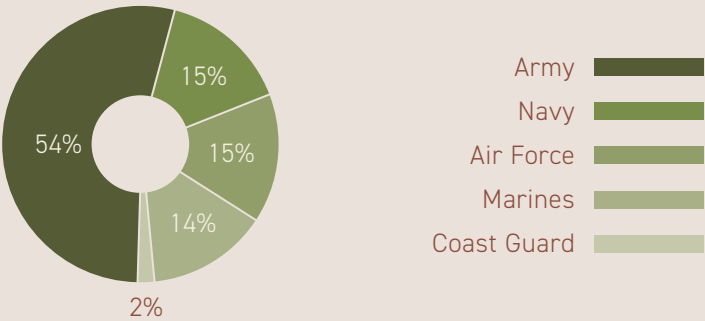


MEMBER STATS

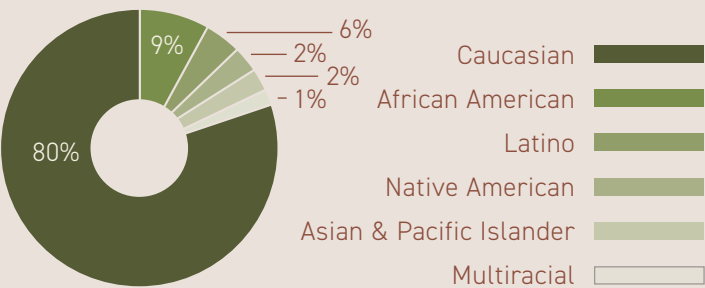
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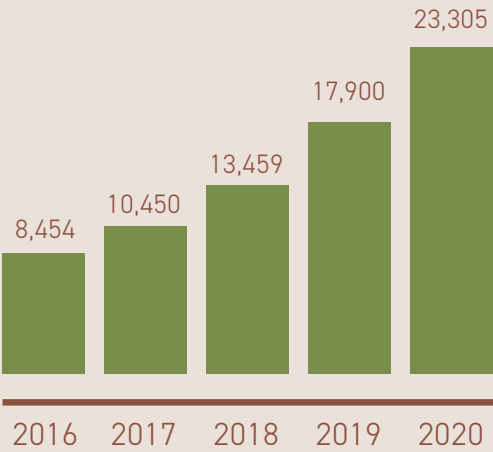
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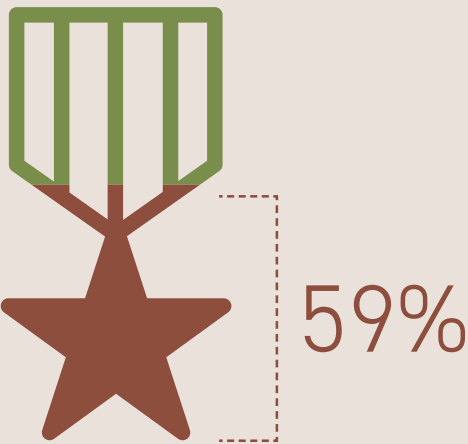
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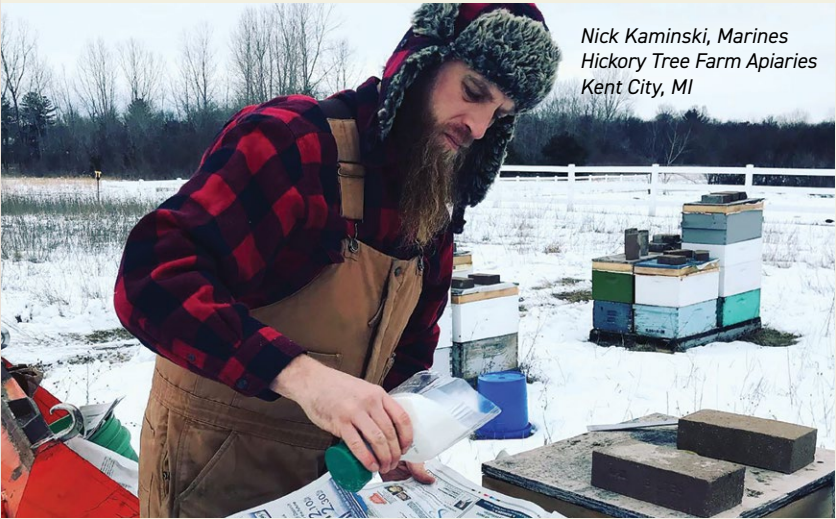
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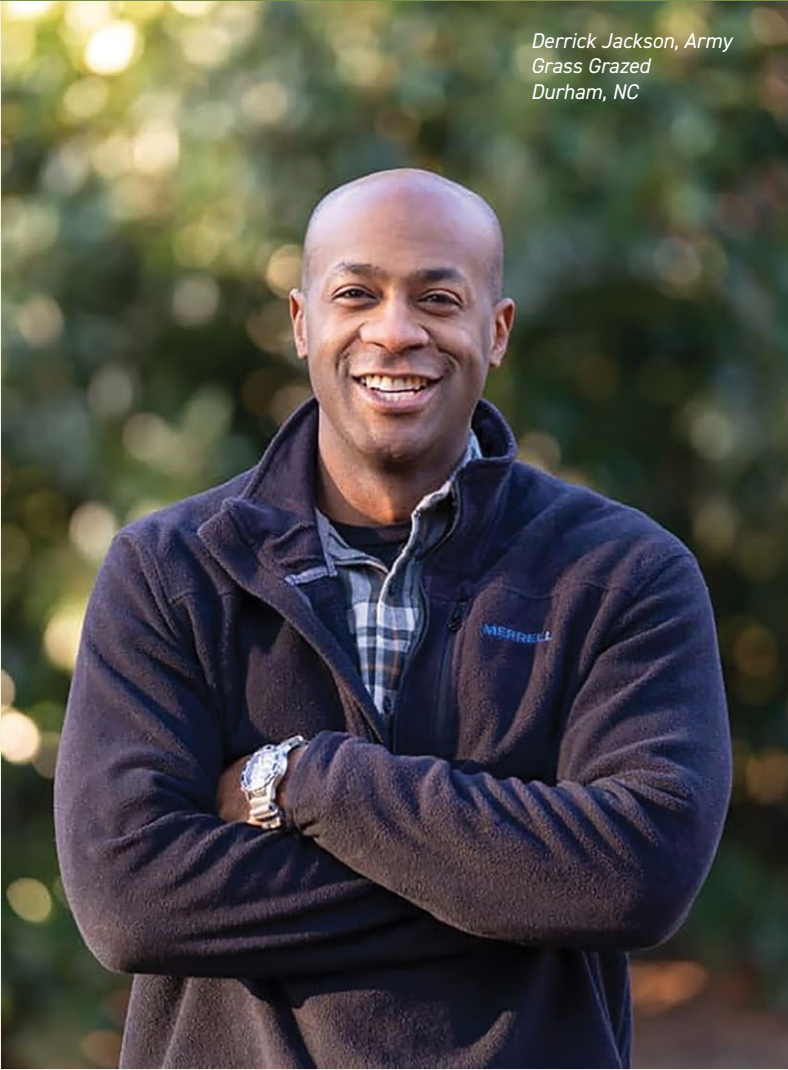
SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED



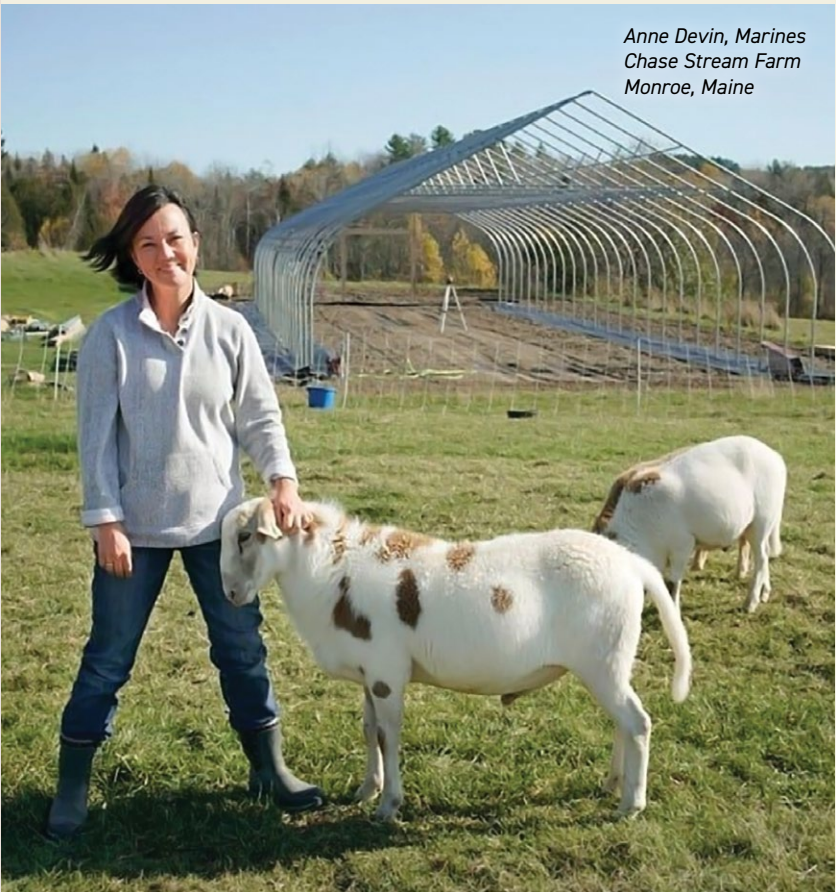
Letty Martinez, Navy
Flying Dogheart Farm
Portland, OR



Nick Kaminski, Marines
Hickory Tree Farm Apiaries
Kent City, MI



Derrick Jackson, Army
Grass Grazed
Durham, NC



Anne Devin, Marines
Chase Stream Farm
Monroe, Maine



Timothy Anthony, Army
Black Dog Farm
Livingston, MT



2020 HIGHLIGHTS



It was 'lights, camera, action!' for FVC's first-ever virtual stakeholders conference in November.

Conference highlights included:

- Gary Matteson, President of FVC's National Board of Directors, opened the first day with moving words of reflection on Michael O'Gorman's legacy, as he transitions into his new role as FVC's Chief Agricultural Officer.
- Michael dedicated the inaugural "Founder's Award" to Nadia McCaffrey, mother of fallen soldier Sgt. Patrick McCaffrey Sr. in a beautiful tribute. Nadia, along with two other Gold Star Mothers, was part of the first meeting on Jim Cochran's strawberry field when the idea for FVC was born.
- Carl Camon brought down the house once again when we replayed his rendition of "America the Beautiful," originally sung at our 2019 gathering in Austin. Carl then updated us on his new community garden in Ray City, Georgia, thanks to a generous donation of seeds by 4Patriots.

2020 National Stakeholders Virtual Conference

We pulled off our first-ever virtual stakeholders conference in November. FVC staff seamlessly navigated the technical challenges, and attendees tuned in from their farms in 49 of the 50 states (we're sure Delaware will join us next time!). Members brought their great ideas to the impromptu chat rooms, which were intended to recreate the feeling of an in-person collaboration. While nothing replaces the energy of being together in person, we sure could feel the bustle and chatter radiating through the screen.

- State chapter leaders from Washington, Michigan, North Carolina, and Vermont shared success stories.
- Marketing superstars imparted their wisdom and shared a flurry of marketing ideas.
- Members gave life to the conference by showcasing themselves on screen, with tandem photos of them in uniform and on their farms. It was a powerful way to close out the event.
- We launched a brand new FVC Facebook group for continued collaboration between farmer veteran members. This will further the great success we witnessed in the chatroom brainstorm, despite us only being united through a screen.
- We ourselves walked away with a long list of new ideas and enthusiasm to keep FVC fresh!

Dropping Dots On The Map

Farmer veterans expand their footprint nationwide

In 2020, our network of state chapters expanded to include four new states: Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. These new "dots on the map" add to our growing list of full-fledged state chapters that integrate farmer veterans into the local agricultural communities and bridge the gap between our nationally driven movement and resources at the state/county level. State chapters personalize the farmer veteran experience to their individual needs and are essential for ensuring members are aware of regional opportunities to help them achieve success in agriculture.

Here are our new chapters at a glance ...



Arkansas

"We are excited and humbled to serve the farmer veterans of Arkansas and come alongside the national organization as we become a voice and source of support for an incredible community of Americans." – **Michael Sparks, President**

- Serves 500 Arkansas members.
- Primary crop is rice, but ag in the state is diverse.
- Formation started in the Fall of 2019 with the Vets4Ag Summit – a trifecta of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, Arkansas Dept. of Veteran Affairs, and the Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture.
- Jason Smedley of Arkansas Farm Bureau led the charge. He is a Marine Corps veteran and a small farmer, and now holds a seat on the chapter board.

North Carolina

"'To be rather than to seem,' is the North Carolina state motto. That is what we are seeking to do with the launch of FVC of Carolina: to be supportive of the military members who have served this country; to be part of the backbone of the agricultural industry which is No. 1 in the state of North Carolina; and to be what we are: veterans who are farmers and ranchers, in service, once again, to our country."

– **Lovay Wallace-Singleton, President**

- Serves 1,000 North Carolina members
- Top crops are cotton, soybean and corn.
- Wallace-Singleton is the Founder of Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden. She was essential in getting the chapter across the finish line. Her dedication and commitment are a testament to how she treats every challenge in life - one step at a time, and you will get it done!
- The North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation was instrumental in ensuring the chapter's formation. Debbie Hamrick has been on the organizing committee since its inception and motivated the team every step of the way.

Tennessee

"The creation of the Tennessee chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition is the culmination of months – and in some cases, years – of hard work by a great team with a shared interest in supporting veterans in agriculture. We look forward to creating a stronger community of farmer veterans across the state and finding new ways to network and share resources." – **Ron Bridges, President**

- Serves 1,000 Tennessee members.
- Initially started their work in 2017 and have been patiently waiting to launch while National revamped the chapter ordinance. They quickly became one of the first chapters formed under the new guidance.
- Ron Bridges is an Army veteran and professor of biology at Pellissippi State Community College.
- Tim Prather, now retired from University of Tennessee Extension, was essential in the formation of this chapter.

South Carolina

"We are so excited that South Carolina is the newest addition to the Farmer Veteran Coalition family. We know that our chapter will provide the support needed across the Palmetto state to help mobilize South Carolinians to feed America."

– **Matthew Rutter, President**

- Serves 500 South Carolina members.
- Veterans farm on 800,000 acres across the state.
- One in 10 South Carolina adults are veterans, with South Carolina ranking ninth in the United States in military retiree population.
- Members grow a wide variety of crops from truffles to apples to commodity crops to livestock.
- Chapter President Matthew Rutter of Project Victory Gardens, is an eighth generation South Carolinian. He strongly advocated for a state chapter, drawing support from the South Carolina Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and numerous other stakeholders.



MEMBER STORIES

Veterans Turned Farmers Get Creative During Covid-19

Farmer veterans across the country adapted to serve their local communities in time of need.

As the world reeled from the COVID-19 pandemic, one group of Americans provided the fuel to keep us going – our farmers. Planting could not be postponed. Birthing animals could not be canceled. Springtime did not wait. Yet many small, independent farmers were hit hard. Farmers markets closed. Farm-to-school programs shut down. Restaurant movement reduced. The impact was a gut-punch of immediate loss of business.

But one thing was – and remains – for sure. People need to eat. We need our farmers to continue to keep us healthy through this crisis. As supermarkets sold out and customers stood in line to meet their basic needs, a growing number of people looked to their local farms.

“If anyone can overcome and adapt, it’s our farmer veterans. Their military training has prepared them for this,” Natalie Monroe, Communications & Marketing Manager at FVC, proudly shared.

Many did adapt, implementing new ways to make fresh food accessible to their communities. They showed urgency and purpose. Their mood shifted from distress to growth and even hope.



Retired Army veteran Damon Cleaton of 4E Farms in Kempner, Texas.

One success story is Damon Cleaton of 4E Farms in Kempner, Texas, who grows under the Homegrown By Heroes label and who was awarded a Fellowship Fund in 2019 to purchase a flex planter. When COVID-19 hit he was in the middle of planting his spring vegetable crops. The wholesalers he buys his plants from were selling out faster than they could grow the crops.

“We realized if we can’t buy the seedlings and plants, other folks were going to have a hard time too. If people can’t find what they need or don’t want to go into crowded stores, we need to do something to fill that gap,” recalls Cleaton, whose 20 years in the Army taught him that food security is a priority in any National emergency.

That’s when he and his wife Cene, a registered nurse for the Department of the Army Civilian behavioral health, decided to shift from growing food for the community to helping them grow their own food.

The Cleatons used their extra starts and herbs to design live plant starter packages. “Salad Bowl” and “Grow-It-Yourself Salsa” are some take-home kits they now sell. These help folks who have never grown their own food to start plants with their kids.

The results have been overwhelming and demand is high. The Cleaton kids – Emma, Ellen, Erich, and Edith and the inspiration behind their 4E Farms name – see who can plant the most trays a day to help the team get ahead of the demand.

And while Damon only planned to farm 3.5 acres this year, because of the crisis he expanded to all seven acres of his cropland, thanks to other veterans who stepped in to help. He wanted to make sure folks in need could depend on them.

Cene offers this insight: “Being able to plant a seed and grow a plant let’s people see and believe in the future. That’s very important in a crisis because it gives people hope.”

“LAs supermarkets sold out and customers stood in line to meet their basic needs, a growing number of people looked to their local farms.”



Marine veteran Cal Zamora and his wife, Aubrianne, operate Zamora Flora in Winters, CA.

Uncertain times create moments of great opportunity.

Cal and Aubrianne – a husband and wife team who operate Zamora Flora in Winters, California – found themselves in a place of overwhelming dread at the start of the pandemic. The closure of markets signaled a dire situation for their flower and vegetable farm that was bursting with freshly-harvested tulips.

“This couldn’t come at a worse time for us. It’s when we usually make a large portion of our annual income, when we’re already paying for early irrigation water, and when we have a boom of flowers and very limited cooler space,” Cal reflected. He’s a former Marine who served for five years including a deployment to Iraq in 2007.

The Zamoras have been helped

along the way by Farmer Veteran Coalition. In 2016, FVC paid the tuition for Cal to attend a local Farm Academy and awarded him a \$3,000 Fellowship Fund to purchase tools and supplies from Johnny’s Selected Seeds.

Inspired to try something new to stay afloat, the flower growers polled their followers. Practically overnight, Zamora Flora rolled out a doorstep delivery service. Then the magic started to happen. In just over 24 hours, they sold all of the tulips they had available.

“It’s uplifting to see all these folks spreading joy throughout their communities and a relief that our tulips will soon be in your homes,” beamed a deeply moved Aubrianne, who has military ties of her own – she was born at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento. She took to their business Facebook page to post photos of the “sneak attack” doorstep bouquet deliveries with the hashtag #spreadjoynotCOVID19.

The best part - this may morph into the launch of a CSA program for their farm. An unexpected surprise.



HOMEGROWN BY HEROES

Homegrown By Heroes (HBH) is the official farmer veteran branding program of America, administered nationally by FVC. It certifies ranchers, farmers, and fisherman of all military eras to sell their products as veteran owned and produced. The label informs consumers that agricultural products donning the logo are produced by U.S. Military veterans, and it allows veterans to differentiate their farm and ranch products in the marketplace.



Army veteran Ryan Salvas and his son proudly display the Homegrown By Heroes label. Salvas owns Radical Roots Farm in Canterbury, Connecticut.

Program History

Founded by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in January 2013, the Homegrown By Heroes label has been administered nationally by Farmer Veteran Coalition since Veterans Day of the same year. Since then, the program has expanded to include more than 2,000 certified members in all 50 states plus U.S. territories. In 2020, FVC received long sought-after approval to use the HBH label on veteran-raised meat that is packed at USDA facilities.

 1,980

CERTIFIED FARMS with the
HOMEGROWN BY HEROES
designation as of 12/31/2020



Carey Howell Army | Fort Mill, SC

For many years, I have spent countless hours researching the crops that grow best in our area, ways to amend our poor soils, how to raise healthy bees and hives, chickens for meat and eggs, and process poultry on farm. I share this with other beginning farmers and veterans in our area. I value punctuality, honesty, dedication and determination.”

Army veteran Carey Howell is a Homegrown By Heroes producer of organic vegetables, eggs, and apiary products. He farms 18 acres in Fort Mill, South Carolina. His specialty crop is black winter truffles from France which grow on the roots of oak trees.

In 2019, FVC awarded him a Fellowship Fund grant to purchase a 20x30 metal structure to keep his produce in the shade while the field heat dissipates. “As we grow we find that this structure is imperative to our success at keeping produce, the farmer, and helpers out of the Carolina sun and heat. It allows us to host more on-farm instruction and educational events during the off season,” he said.

A recipient of the 2019 Innovative Conservationist of the Year award, Carey hosts agritourism events on his farm to educate his community about the importance of pollinators and ethical meat. His goal is to be the local leader of organic and sustainable farming.



Amy Hess Army | Aledo, IL

Amy Hess transitioned from a 23-year Army career to a Homegrown By Heroes producer raising chickens, ducks, guineas, and heritage turkeys on her farm, 1483 Kindred Acres.

She sells eggs through a personal egg delivery service in her rural county, delivering three Saturdays a month and hosting pick-up market days at her farm on the fourth Saturday. Producing 120 dozen eggs per month, she consistently sells out and has ambitions to double her inventory.

For Amy, having her own farm feels like a homecoming. As a child, she lived on different farms; her grandparents raised chickens and bees, and her dad helped farm row crops and livestock when she was young. Taking care of animals gives Amy a great sense of purpose, satisfaction, and peace. Farming offers her the opportunity to create her own working environment and set her own goals. She is finally in a place she can call home for the future.

Amy has been instrumental in her leadership role for the Illinois chapter of FVC and in assisting other farmer veterans in her state.



FELLOWSHIP FUND

TOTAL AWARD VALUE:
\$390,000

\$241,000
FELLOWSHIPS
(various funders)

\$80,000
Kubota Geared to Give (in kind)
5 pieces of Kubota equipment awarded

\$50,000
Tractor Supply Co. (gift cards)

\$15,000
Tarter Farm and Ranch
Equipment (in kind)

AVERAGE AWARD:
\$3,390



Ryan Stevens
Marines | New Vineyard, ME

“I grew up tapping, collecting, and boiling syrup with my grandfather, father, and brother. In those days we collected each bucket hanging from a tree walking down a hill trying to keep from sloshing the sap on our legs.”

Ryan Stevens retired from the Marine Corps as a Gunnery Sergeant in August 2018, after conducting 10 combat deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC). He’s the recipient of two Purple Hearts and multiple valor awards including the Bronze Star Medal.

Ryan and wife, Stephanie, who is also a Marine veteran, now own and operate Full Armor Farm in New Vineyard, Maine, producing maple and birch syrup, apple cider, chicken eggs, and seasonal produce. They also raise Scottish Highland beef cattle. As a Fellowship Fund recipient, Ryan’s grant allows the couple to triple their syrup production capability from 200 to 600 taps. “When I left the maple syrup game it was buckets, metal spiles, and the farmer’s sap carry,” shares Ryan. “Full Armor Farm has been able to catch up with technology by utilizing the FVC grant to purchase all the line infrastructure and modern tools to perform installations.”

The Stevens’ future ambitions include internship opportunities for veterans interested in farming.



Ryan McCarthy
Army | Sequim, WA

“We hear the term ‘farmer’s wife,’ so I guess I might be best described as a ‘farmer’s husband’.”

Ryan McCarthy served in the Army for nearly nine years as a member of the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion based in Fort Lewis, Washington. He used his GI bill to finish a business management degree and in 2012 joined his wife, Sarah, in living out her lifelong dream of taking over her family’s dairy farm, Dungeness

Valley Creamery in Sequim, Washington. The McCartheys produce and sell about 350 gallons of raw milk each day through their farm store, retail stores, and direct to consumers.

A Fellowship Fund grant from FVC allowed them to purchase an electric fence tumbling system for modular rotational grazing and a micro irrigation reel for irrigating small pastures. This allowed Ryan and Sarah to rethink their rotational grazing system and pasture management to get more grass growth as well as save on labor.

The McCartheys host farm tours, provide free field trips for schools and universities, and engage consumers over social media with photos and videos to connect them with their farm. Together, they enjoy the challenge of reducing their farm’s environmental impact while strengthening the perception of the dairy industry within their community.

Wounded Warrior Project Confirms Support for Fellowship Fund

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) expanded partnerships to include 12 new and existing veteran and military service organizations to help meet the needs of our nation’s wounded, ill, and injured veterans and their families.

Farmer Veteran Coalition was one of the 12 organizations awarded, and the funding will directly support the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund in 2021.

Like WWP, FVC believes that every warrior has a next mission. Farming provides the kind of mission-oriented work that many veterans found satisfying while serving in the military, in addition to offering them a sense of purpose, opportunity, and physical and psychological benefits.

As FVC member and Army veteran Davon Goodwin of North Carolina puts it, “the camaraderie you lose when you exit the military, you gain that through FVC.” Davon was injured in Afghanistan in 2010, which altered his life goal of pursuing a Ph.D. in Botany. He transitioned into farming instead with the goal of providing the same commitment to his community as a farmer that he did as a soldier.

“When I got on the farm, I felt reinvigorated. I felt life. I felt like there was a connection between humans and soil,” said the Fellowship Fund alum. “When I put my hands in the dirt, it changed me.”

This funding from WWP will support 36 fellowships in 2021- at least half of them designated for female veterans.

The Fellowship Fund program directly aligns with WWP’s mission by connecting, serving, and empowering wounded warriors that have experienced physical and emotional harm.

“When I got on the farm, I felt invigorated. I felt life. I felt like there was a connection between humans and soil.”

— Army veteran Davon Goodwin,
OTL Farms



Army veteran Tim Doherty of Doc’s Healing Hives and Honey used a 2020 award to purchase beekeeping equipment.

It connects recipients with FVC’s vast network of veterans to combat geographic and psychological isolation so common to farmers, while establishing a sense of community and camaraderie that mirrors the fellowship of military service.

It serves those who have served our country. For many, the purchase of equipment gives “wounded warriors” with physical limitations the ability to do work on their farms that their physical limitations would otherwise prohibit.

It empowers by giving veterans the financial assistance they need to launch a farming business, and the opportunity to use their existing skills from military service to succeed as an agricultural professional and earn a meaningful, financially sustainable place in the agricultural community.



FARMER VETERAN
— COALITION —

FELLOWSHIP
FUND

SINCE INCEPTION
700+
FARMERS
HAVE BEEN FUNDED



GEARED TO GIVE



Geared to Give Back on National Farmer's Day

Country Superstar Brantley Gilbert Joined Kubota and Farmer Veteran Coalition to Empower Farmer Veterans with Tools to Achieve their Dreams

“Kubota is proud to work with FVC and with Brantley and his team to recognize the 2020 recipients and help us power and empower them with the right equipment to help them achieve their dreams.”

— Alex Woods,
Kubota Tractor Corporation

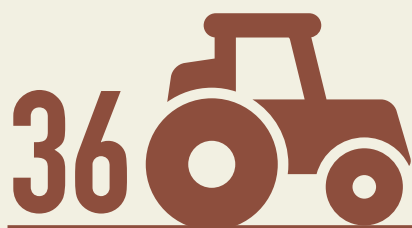
On National Farmer's Day, Kubota Tractor Corporation announced the selection of five new farmer veteran recipients of new Kubota equipment as part of the 2020 “Geared to Give” program in partnership with Farmer Veteran Coalition. In recognition of their current and past U.S. military service and their continued service to their communities through farming, country music singer and songwriter Brantley Gilbert helped Kubota and FVC honor each veteran, inviting those nearby to his farm to bestow the gift of Kubota equipment that will help them achieve self-sufficiency and take their farming operation to the next level.

“It truly is the American dream for many – and certainly those returning or starting a new career in farming – to become a self-sufficient farmer, with the right mix of equipment, drive and determination to make tending to the land your life's work,” said Alex Woods, Kubota senior vice president of sales operations, supply chain and parts. “Kubota is proud to work with FVC and with Brantley and his team to recognize the 2020 recipients and help us power and empower them with the right equipment to help them achieve their dreams.”

Kubota's Geared to Give program has provided equipment and grants to 36 farmer veterans since 2015 through FVC's Fellowship Fund, which matches veterans' needs with donated resources to help them further their agriculture careers.

“Helping veterans achieve self-sufficiency in farming communities across the country is one of the greatest joys of our work,” said Jeanette Lombardo, executive director of FVC. “We're extremely grateful to continue working alongside Kubota to deliver the right mix of much-needed equipment to take our veterans' farms to the next level; it's truly the greatest gift, particularly for farmers just starting out.”

2020
– 6TH YEAR
OF PROGRAM



PIECES OF EQUIPMENT
AWARDED TO DATE



Marine veteran Andrew Edelen (left), Navy veteran Bodhi Anderson (top), Marine veteran Joshua Nelson (bottom), and Army veteran Cody Miller (right)

The 2020 recipients were carefully selected from each one of Kubota's five operating divisions:

Western Division

Bodhi Anderson | Honomu, Hawaii

Bodhi is a U.S. Navy veteran who served five years on active duty as a Corpsman for the Marines with deployments to the Adriatic Sea during the Bosnian War and the Middle East. Bodhi grew up on an organic vegetable farm and now he and his wife, Brittany, own Sugar Hill Farmstead, a 15-acre farm that specializes in sustainably raised regenerative meats. Cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and meat chickens are all processed on-farm and sold as part of a meat CSA.

Midwest Division

Cody Miller | Thayer, Iowa

Cody is a U.S. Army veteran who served 16+ years with one deployment to Afghanistan. He was raised on his grandmother's family farm, the same one he currently operates – Full Moon Farms. He tends to 40 acres of row crops, raises ducks and chickens, and also rents another 200 acres for raising cattle and hay and row crops.

Central Division

Andrew Edelen | Alice, Texas

Andrew served five and a half years in the U.S. Marine Corps as an aviation equipment mechanic. As a second-generation farmer, he has taken over his family's 350-acre farm, Edelen Farms, where he produces grass-fed beef, pastured poultry, free range eggs and vegetables to sell at local farmers' markets.

Northern Division

Joshua Nelson | Ripley, West Virginia

Joshua is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and currently serving as a pilot in the West Virginia Air National Guard with deployments to Kuwait flying combat missions into Iraq and Syria. Josh is a first-generation farmer who turned a hobby farm start up in 2015 to an approximately 300-acre owned and leased organic grass-based ranch and farm – Nelson Family Farms. He raises poultry, cattle, pork, bees and other livestock following regenerative ranching practices.

Southeast Division

Kara Rutter | Aiken, South Carolina

Kara retired from the U.S. Army in 2020 after more than 23 years of service. She last served as the Army Central Food Service Sergeant Major overseeing subsistence operations in the Middle East. Her husband, Matt, also retired in 2020 as a Command Sergeant Major after 22 years of service and now serves as president of the FVC South Carolina chapter. Together, they own Project Victory Gardens, a 20-acre farm with chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats, pigs, beehives, fruit trees, berry bushes, a 1,000-foot greenhouse, raised bed and traditional vegetable gardens. Kara has plans to be fully operational in the next 12 months with an aquaponics facility and training lab and teaching kitchen.



Josh Eilers
– Army veteran



Matt Smiley
– Army veteran



Marvin Frink
– Army veteran



Josh Nelson
– West Virginia Air National Guard



Alex Jauregui
– Army veteran

2020 DONORS

\$200,000 and above

Farm Credit Council
May and Stanley Smith
Charitable Trust
U.S. Smokeless Tobacco

\$150,000 and above

Mental Insight

\$100,000 and above

Kubota Tractor Corporation
Wounded Warrior Project

\$25,000 and above

Prudential
Safeway Foundation
Vermont Community Fund

\$5,000 and above

Clif Bar
Farm Credit Western Marketing
Alliance
Farm Focused
Frey Family Charitable Account
J.R. Simplot Company Foundation
Network for Good
PayPal Giving Fund
Rose & David Dortort Foundation
Schwab Charitable
Sustainable Futures Fund
Vital Farms

\$1,000 and above

American Farm Bureau Federation
Amy Lyman
Barn2Door
Capital Farm Credit
Doreen Simmons
Eight Oaks Craft Distillers
Eiserman and Associates, LLC
Gar Bennett Water Systems
James Andrews
James Maiocco
Janice Hurt
Mark Halliday
Michael O’Gorman
National Veteran Business
Development Council

Pz Horton
Run Free Run
Tadeusz Stawasz
Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars
United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI)

\$500 and above

Boot Barn
Carolyn Mugar
Diana Blalock
Erica Chow
Farm Credit East
Farm Credit, CoBank
Goodway Group
Jeremy Arnold
Kern Community Foundation
Michael Devany
North Carolina Farm Bureau
Northwest Farm Credit
Patrick Lejeune
ProAg Management Inc
Randall Hodgin
Stephanie Campbell
Tara Roth
The Colorado Episcopal
Foundation

\$100 and above

Adam Griffin
Alvin & Marie Schultz
Memorial Fund
Alvis Stenlake
Amanda Lovingood
Aurelie Moinet
Barbara Spencer
Beauvoir Properties LLC
Brian Clements
Cathie Bradley
Charlie Kruse
Cleveland Topley
Courtney Ellington
Daniel Daley
Darrol Brown
David Winter
Davis Food Co-Op
Desma Brooks
Don Reynolds
Donald Mabry

Douglas Odom
E. Drude
Edward Minyard
Emily Glawe
Eric Dudash
Eric Grandon
G Dayton
Gary Matteson
Genia Wells
Geoff Smeltzer
Gina Murdock
Gordon and Betty Moore
Foundation
Greg Miller
Harold Lockhart
Hazel Beck
Holt Ag Solutions
James Cochran
James Milling
James Plaggemeyer
James Zimmerman
Jana Madrid
Janet Eagan
Jeanette Lombardo
Jeff Lane
Jennifer Caci
Jennifer Lyons
Jodi Maslaney
John Cabak
John Engler
Joseph Burdulinski
Joseph Donati
Joshua Keller
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Kirsten Hill
Leevi Werner
Lester Fox
Linda McGeath
Louis Bergeron
Mary Holmes
Matt Petti
Matt Williams
Matt Wilson
Michael Flouer
Michael Rupe

Michael Turner
Michelle Woods
Nancy Carleton
Nancy Housel
Nancy Huffstetler
Natasha Dachos
Nicole Vitello
Organically Grown Co
Pamela Goldsmith
Patricia Decrappeo
Patrick Reynolds
Prairie Grove
Public Employee Credit Union
Ralph Bruce
Ravdeep Jaidka
Robert Kearns
Sara Wieneck
Sarah Dachos
Scott Cleveland
Scott Smith
Scott Whitlock–
Flexware Innovation
Shaun I Kowalke
Shawn Karr
Shawn Monien
Sherrye Defreytas
Sherrye Landrum
Simone Spiess
Soldier Agricultural Vocational
Education
South Carolina Dept
of Agriculture
Stephanie Stoudt
Stephen Manus
Susan Thompson
Texas Hemp Cooperative
Textron Charitable Trust
The Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Thomas Kelly
Tides Center
Tonya Quinn sanchez
Vicki Carter
Wagstaff Family Charitable
Foundation
William Jernigan
William Valentine



OFFICE | 500 Capitol Mall | Suite 2350 | Sacramento, CA 95814

MAILING | P.O. Box 660675 PMB 94776 | Dallas, TX 75266-0675

PHONE: (530) 756-1395 | Farmvetco.org