

Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison

A new leadership position established by the 2014 Farm Bill

Our mandate:

- Assist veterans in beginning a farming or ranching career
- Connect veterans to resources and advocate on behalf of veterans at USDA
- Support veterans in agriculture through cooperative agreements and contracts



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Why is USDA involved?

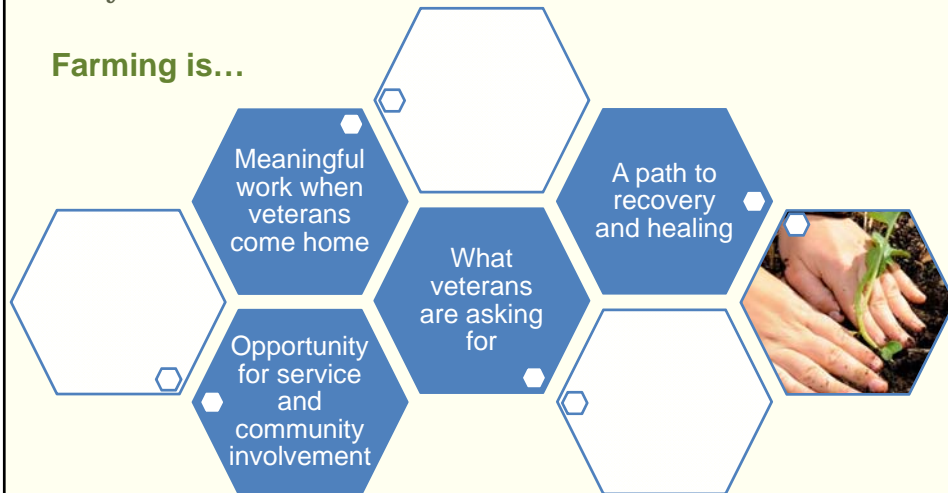
Rural America is **16%** of the population;
19% of veterans come from rural America



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Why is USDA involved?

Farming is...



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Priorities of the Military Veterans Agriculture Liaison

- 1. Veterans in Farming**
by making USDA programs accessible
- 2. Veterans Employment**
at USDA and in agribusiness
- 3. Support for Military Families**
in nutrition, housing, and health
- 4. Partnerships**
with Federal, State, local efforts



VETERANS IN
AGRICULTURE

USDA Rural Development Mission Area Serves Veterans

Veterans often face difficult challenges associated with health care, homelessness and job loss. Living in a rural area where access to services can be limited can lead to increased distress for the veteran and their family.



VETERANS IN
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RHS helps Veterans thrive in rural America by providing:

- Direct Loans
- Loan Guarantees
- Home Repair Loans and grants
- Multi-Family Housing
- Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service's Commitment to Veterans

Since 2008 RHS has invested in

14,134 Veteran Households

through Single-Family Housing Programs



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service's Commitment to Veterans

Since 2008 RHS has
invested more than

\$1.45 Billion

in Veteran Homeownership
through Single-Family Direct
and Guaranteed Loan
Programs



VETERANS IN
AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service's Commitment to Veterans

Since 2008 RHS has
invested more than

\$14.9 Million

To support existing homes of
Veterans through Home
Repair Loans and Grants



VETERANS IN
AGRICULTURE

RHS Builds Communities Supporting Veterans

RHS Community Facilities Program funding can be used to:

- Purchase, construct or upgrade a Veteran's health service facility
- Local and regional food system projects
- Upgrade or expand existing buildings to provide job training or social, educational or wellness events



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Veterans Shelter in New Hampshire

The Bridge House, (Plymouth, NH) -
\$35,200 CF Grant – 8/18/14

Rural Development funds were used to renovate a space into a Veterans and Homeless Advocacy Center and thrift store.

Bridge House also operates a separate homeless shelter.



VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

Thank you!

“Veterans have sacrificed dearly to keep this country safe. Every day, they confront and triumph over those that threaten our national security. We owe it to our military men and women to ensure a different kind of security is waiting when they return home—the security that comes from the promise of a good job, affordable housing, a quality education and dependable health care.”

Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture



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Coming Soon:
www.usda.gov/veterans



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