



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



# **USDA's AgVets Program and Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Program**

**Wednesday, January 29  
2020 AgrAbility Virtual National Training Workshop**

**Brent Elrod  
USDA/NIFA**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Basic Webinar Instructions

- Audio available through computer or phone.
- Check sound via Communicate menu at top left
- Closed captions: use arrow to expand or contact the Media Viewer window.
- Expand/contract any of the windows in the right-hand column with the arrows.
- Expand/contract the size of the right-hand column.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Basic Webinar Instructions

## Questions and comments

- Go to the Chat option in the right-hand column. Please send to “All Panelists”. Enter message in box below TO and hit enter/return. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.
- In addition, during the Q & A period, you may click the “Raise Hand” icon on the attendee list to indicate that you have a question. We will do our best to enable your microphone or phone connection.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Basic Webinar Instructions

- Please let me know if more than one person is viewing at your computer
- 4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments
- Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at [www.agrability.org/online-training/virtualntw](http://www.agrability.org/online-training/virtualntw)
- Problems: use chat window or email [jonesp@purdue.edu](mailto:jonesp@purdue.edu)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



## **AgrAbility:** USDA/NIFA–sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

- Partners land–grant universities with disability services organizations. Currently 20 state projects
- National AgrAbility Project: Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Partners include:
  - Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
  - APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living)
  - Colorado State University
  - Washington State University
- More information available at [www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# **Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets) and Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Competitive Grants Programs**

**AgrAbility Virtual National Training Workshop  
January 29, 2020  
Online, US**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# ... from DC to KC!





Brent Elrod  
[richard.elrod@usda.gov](mailto:richard.elrod@usda.gov)  
816.926.2535





# Agenda

- FY20 AgVets RFA
  - Program Basics
  - Current Grantees
- FY20 FRSAN RFA
  - Program Basics
  - Current Grantees
- Q&A



# AgVets Program Basics - Purpose

- Competitive grant program for projects that provide training programs and services to establish and enhance farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics - Eligibility

- AgVets applicants must be nonprofit organizations.
- Nonprofit organization means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization, not including institutions of higher education (IHEs), that:
  - (a) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;
  - (b) Is not organized primarily for profit; and
  - (c) Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics: #Awards/Amounts

- NIFA anticipates making multiple awards
- Amount and project period to be determined







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics: Project Type

- **Training and Outreach Projects** must conduct programs and activities that deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to veterans through an immersive onsite learning experience leading to a comprehensive understanding of successful farm/ranch operation/management practices.
- AgrAbility suggested as a partner



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# AgVets Grant pages

- The NIFA Funding Opportunity Page:  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans>
- [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Page:

This page will include a synopsis of the funding opportunity, a link to the full announcement (RFPA) and the application package.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Proposal Submission Requirements

- Applications **do NOT** require matching
- **Applicant webinar will be scheduled after the RFA posts late Winter, early Spring.**

# FY19 AgVets Awardees

PD	Phone	Email	Proposal Title
Emily Emmons	808-494-2613	<a href="mailto:emily@hoolafarms.org">emily@hoolafarms.org</a>	Go Farm Hawaii: Growing Veterans
Mark Sorensen	928-415-4157	<a href="mailto:mark.sorensen@starschool.org">mark.sorensen@starschool.org</a>	Veterans Agricultural Education and Apprenticeship Program in the Southwest
John Butler	901-757-7777	<a href="mailto:jbutler@agricenter.org">jbutler@agricenter.org</a>	Veterans Employed in Technology and Service in Agriculture (VETSA)
Michael Edwards	812-849-4447	<a href="mailto:ltarr@hoosieruplands.org">ltarr@hoosieruplands.org</a>	Indiana Ag Vet Grant offers opportunities for military interested in employment in agriculture to develop skills for successful agricultural-related careers.
Melissa Stewart	304-634-6909	<a href="mailto:melissa.l.stewart22.nfg@mail.mil">melissa.l.stewart22.nfg@mail.mil</a>	Patriot Gardens: Providing Pathways for Production and Processing for Military Veterans
Joe Knott	703-953-7220	<a href="mailto:jknott@compatiblelands.net">jknott@compatiblelands.net</a>	Fort Hood Veterans` Farming Education And Training (FEAT) Initiative





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Indiana AgVets

## Certification and Internship Program

- Project Director Name: Michael Edwards
- Email address: [medwards@hoosieruplands.org](mailto:medwards@hoosieruplands.org)
  - Primary phone: 812-849-4447
- Co-PD Name: Dr. William Field
  - Email address: [field@purdue.edu](mailto:field@purdue.edu)
  - Primary Phone: 765-494-1191
- Lead Evaluator Name: Dr. Brian French, Ph.D.
  - Email [frenchb@wsu.edu](mailto:frenchb@wsu.edu)
  - Primary phone: 509-335-8584



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Site Locations

- Purdue will offer 12 regional agricultural research farms as internship sites, providing an array of agricultural enterprises including beef, dairy, sheep, poultry, swine, row crop, vegetable, fruit and timber production.
- Additional internship sites will be selected to reflect the expressed interests of Veteran participants such as urban farms, greenhouses, nurseries, crop and livestock services, and food processing.
- Internship experiences will be complemented by job skills training and industry-specific certifications appropriate for each veteran's career aspirations.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Objectives

- The primary objective is to provide returning Veterans the educational opportunities and professional support to prepare them to successfully pursue meaningful and well-paying careers in the food and agricultural sector.
- Other objectives include developing curriculum, identifying and assessing intern sites, conducting worksite assessments and supervisor training, conducting the educational programs and internship for each of 4 teams, and performing ongoing evaluation and monitoring.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Evaluation Plan

- Dr. French will provide a written evaluation to all partners and USDA/NIFA.
- Findings will be submitted for publication and shared with key stakeholders.
- Modifications to program contents and structure will be based on feedback from the pilot experience and evaluation process.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Indiana AgVets

## Partners & Cooperators



- Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation
- Purdue University / AgrAbility
- Purdue University Research Farms and Purdue Extension
- Indiana state government (Department of Agriculture; Veterans Affairs)
- Veteran service organizations and agencies
- Farm and agribusiness organizations

# Upcoming: FY20 AgVets RFA

- Late Winter / Early Spring release
- Sign up and attend the applicant webinar
- Consider submitting or serving as a peer panel reviewer
- <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans-agvets>



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# **Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Competitive Grants Program**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Grant pages

- The NIFA Funding Opportunity Page:  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/farm-and-ranch-stress-assistance-network>
- [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Page:

This page will include a synopsis of the funding opportunity, a link to the full announcement (RFPA) and the application package.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics - Purpose

- The purpose of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Program is to establish a network that connects individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs.
  - The establishment of a network that assists farmers and ranchers in time of stress can offer a conduit to improving behavioral health awareness, literacy, and outcomes for agricultural producers, workers and their families.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics - Eligibility

- Applications may only be submitted by a collaborative state; tribal; local or regionally-based network, or partnership of qualified public and/or private entities, as determined by the Secretary. These collaborations may include the following entities:
  - Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));
  - State departments of agriculture
  - State cooperative extension services; and
  - Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics - Eligibility

- Four regions
- No matching requirement



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics: #Awards/Amounts

- NIFA anticipates making multiple FRISAN awards
- Period of performance – 9/1/20 to 8/31/21



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Program Basics: Project Type

- Applications will be accepted for Regional Networks. The long-term goal of the FR SAN projects is to establish a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network that provides stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations on a regional basis.



# Program Basics: Project Type – cont'd.

- Network members must initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as necessary through the following:
  1. Farm telephone helplines and websites;
  2. Training, including training programs and workshops, for the following:
    - a. Advocates for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and
    - b. Other individuals and entities that may assist individuals who-
      - i. are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and
      - ii. are in crisis;
  3. Support groups; and
  4. Outreach services and activities, including the dissemination of information and materials.

# FY19 FRSAN Awardees

PD	Phone	Email	Proposal Title
Natalie Roy	985-845-1116	<a href="mailto:nroy@agrisafe.org">nroy@agrisafe.org</a>	Southern Region Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network
Don McMoran	360-428-4270, ext 225	<a href="mailto:dmcmoran@wsu.edu">dmcmoran@wsu.edu</a>	Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP)
David Brown	515-294-0860	<a href="mailto:dnbrown@iastate.edu">dnbrown@iastate.edu</a>	Farm and Ranch Wellness: The Next Steps
Martin Lemos	(518) 643-3564	<a href="mailto:lmartin@youngfarmers.org">lmartin@youngfarmers.org</a>	Building an Inclusive and Comprehensive Network for Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance in the Northeast



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Upcoming: FY20 FRSAN RFA

- Late Winter / Early Spring release
- Sign up and attend the applicant webinar
- Consider submitting or serving as a peer panel reviewer
- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/farm-and-ranch-stress-assistance-network-frsan>

# If you would like to be considered as a potential AgVets or FRSAN reviewer:

- Send an email to [sydney.turner@usda.gov](mailto:sydney.turner@usda.gov)
- Put “AgVets reviewer” or “FRSAN reviewer” in the subject line
- Include:
  - A brief description of your experience and expertise with respect to Vets to Ag or Ag Mental Health / Stress
  - Your full contact information (full name, organization, email, phone, regular mail)
  - Whether you plan to be included in any role on a proposal this year

# Q & A

