

# Patriot Guardens

## MISSION

Patriot Guardens aligns landowners, operators, experts, resources and infrastructure to facilitate agricultural economic development opportunities for West Virginia and create employment opportunities for West Virginia veterans, members of the West Virginia National Guard and citizens.

## GOAL

To provide services and support on an ongoing basis while building capacity for Patriot Guardens to become self-sustaining through revenue streams from the sale of agricultural products, educational workshops and joint ventures.

## Reaching The Goal

- Provide agricultural education and training opportunities to Veterans, Guardsmen, and West Virginians while also supporting recovery, transition, and reintegration efforts
- Support a multi-year re-development of armories into community agricultural centers focused on learning and entrepreneurship
- Build agriculture start-ups and broad-based networks of ag-businesses while collaborating with other private and nonprofit agricultural groups and initiatives



# Patriot Gardens

## Agricultural Trainings

- Program has provided over 200 topic based agricultural education and training opportunities to over 750 Veterans, Guardsmen, and West Virginians while also supporting recovery, transition, and reintegration efforts
- Compiled a listserve comprised of 305 program participants with 71% actively serving, veterans or military family members
- Program has developed 13 full time positions; 3 veterans on staff
- Hands-on Education and Training offered out of 3 locations around the state, with statewide programming offered via 25 armory resources



# Patriot Gardens

## Jobs and Hope

Jobs & Hope West Virginia is the state's comprehensive response to the Substance Use Disorder Crisis. The Patriot Gardens Program delivers hands-on agriculturally based workforce development trainings to program participants based on employer needs.

- Delivered 40 garden production based workshops to 75-80 clients in various stages of recovery on a weekly basis out of Recovery Point Charleston
- Developed and delivered 24 workforce development trainings on the following topics:
  - \*Greenhouse Technician
  - \*Lawn & Landscape Technician
  - \*OSHA 10
  - \*Orchard Management
- Developed and delivered Meat Cutting Pre-Apprenticeship Course with 18 MCA Cadets leading to opportunities to join Apprenticeship with Buzz Foods



# Patriot Gardens

## Apple Project

- Pilot Orchard
- 3039 trees
- 10 varieties with 5 different rootstocks
- 5 Acres in production
- Nursery
- 100,000 grafted rootstock
- Transitioning 35,000-50,000 into permanent orchard spacing on 75 acres with 15 acres complete
- Trial Variety Orchard
- Approximately 250 trial varieties of peach, pear and nectarine planted spring 2019 with USDA AFRS Kearneysville partners
- Beeyards
- 400 hives currently in production
- Drawing down and spinning honey producing between 100-200 gallons toward program sustainability



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