



Mobilizing Veterans to Feed America

Combined Federal Campaign #25771



Jeanette Lombardo

Executive Director

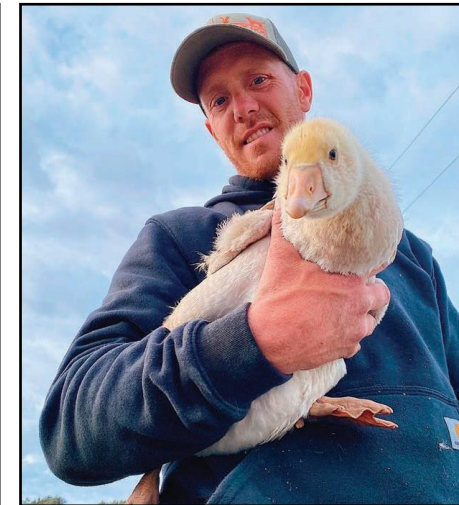
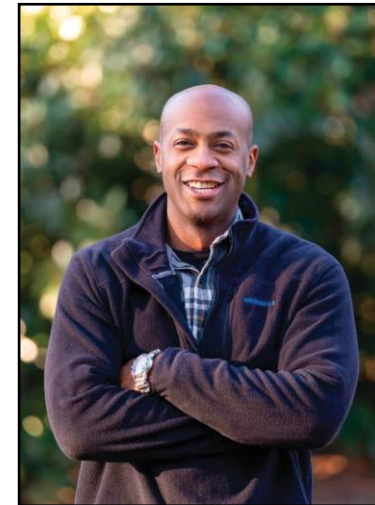
- **Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, to Air Force veteran father**
- **Raised on multi-generational family farm in Pennsylvania**
- **More than 24 years in agriculture lending**
- **Multiple appointments at federal and state level**
- **Served on several agricultural association boards**
- **Subject-matter expert in the areas of agricultural water, trade, land use, and crop protection tools**

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What is Farmer Veteran Coalition?

- Nation's largest nonprofit assisting veterans and currently serving members of the Armed Forces embark on careers in agriculture
- Provide support to farmer veterans in several ways:
 - Financial resources
 - Business planning
 - Career counseling/Job placement
 - Training; apprenticeships, internships, mentorships
 - Member product discounts
- Founded in 2009 | Based in Woodland, California



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Who Are FVC's Members?

GENDER

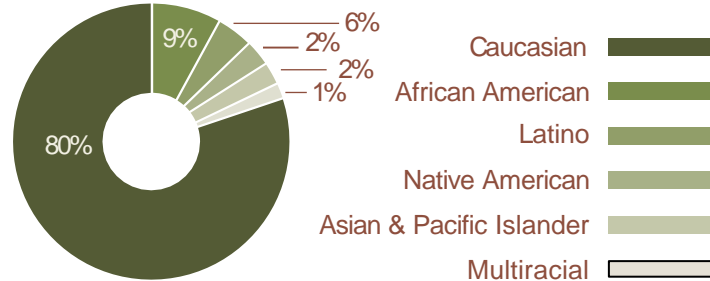


84%

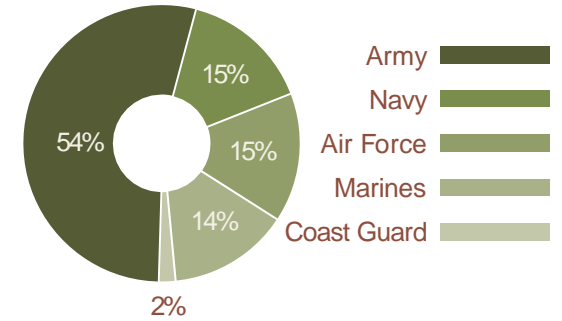


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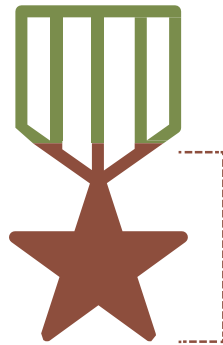
RACE & ETHNICITY



BRANCH OF SERVICE

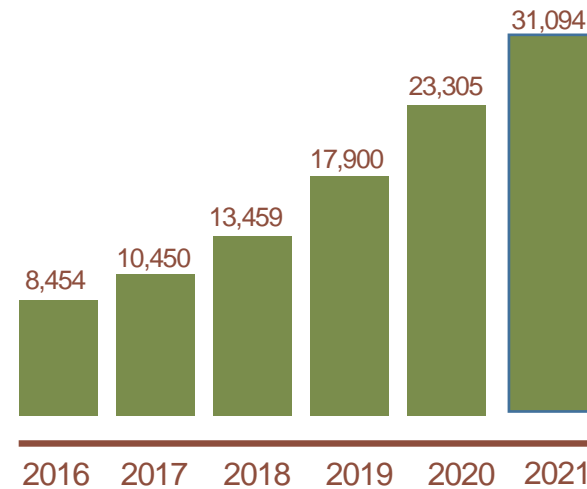


SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED



59%

MEMBER GROWTH



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Programs

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Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund

- **Small grant program that provides direct assistance to farmer veterans with awards of \$1,000 to \$5,000**
 - **Purchases made on behalf of farmer veteran for equipment and other related supplies**
 - **Application opens at beginning of year with purchases made in the spring**

- **Established in 2011 and has awarded \$3.5 million in grants to more than 800 farmer veterans**

- **Major sponsors include Wounded Warrior Project, Kubota Tractor Corporation, Tractor Supply Co., and Farm Credit System**



Army vet Allan Woods
Honey processing equipment



Army vet Adam Gehlhar
Fencing supplies

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Geared to Give

- In partnership with Kubota Tractor Corporation, the Geared to Give program provides equipment and grants through the Fellowship Fund
- Each year, Kubota awards five pieces of equipment through the Geared to Give program
- Since 2015, Geared to Give program has awarded 31 pieces of equipment to Farmer Veteran Coalition members



31  **PIECES OF EQUIPMENT AWARDED**

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Homegrown By Heroes Label

- Official farmer veteran branding program of America
- Certifies ranchers, farmers, foresters and fishermen to sell their products as veteran-owned and produced
- 20 partnerships with State Departments of Agriculture
- HBH producers to sell products on
 - *New in 2022*

 + 2,400

Homegrown By Heroes Certified Producers
Nationwide

MARKET  MAKER

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AgCareers.com

- AgCareers.com is an international placement agency that provides talent solutions for the agriculture and food industries.
- In Q1 2022, FVC is rolling out a partnership with AgCareers.com to help members find remote, off-farm jobs in agriculture.
- AgCareers.com operates Ag Warriors program that assists veterans in their search of careers in the agriculture and food industries—FVC will be incorporated into this program.
- FVC will host a plug-in on our website where members can search and apply for jobs.



Career Certification Pathway Program

- Initial pilot program with Kubota Tractor Corporation is underway, but also working with other agricultural industry leaders to build out offerings.
- Kubota program focuses on technician jobs which require specialized certifications.
- Once certification is complete, veterans receive job placement assistance to fill 1,800 jobs at Kubota dealerships across the country.





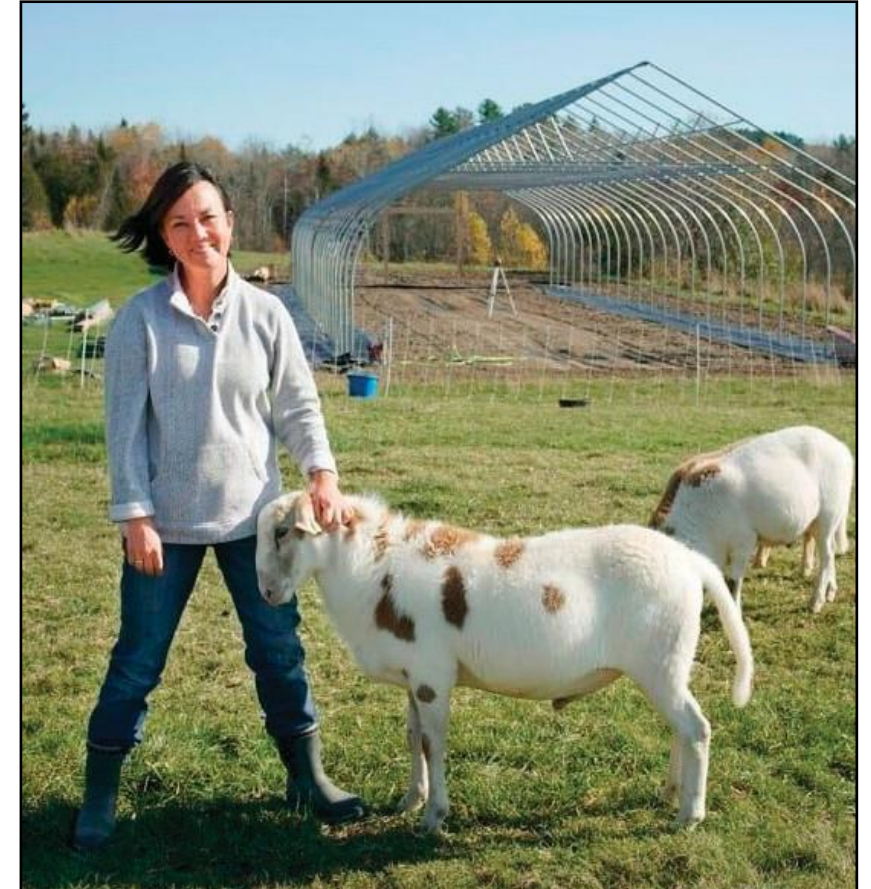
Grants & Programs

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Cooperative Agreement Mobilizing Veterans to Feed America

- This grant supports USDA's historic commitment to lower barriers to access USDA programming to help underserved producers succeed.
- FVC will coordinate with other cooperators to focus on the needs of farmer and rancher veteran members through:
 - Financial literacy
 - Introduction to USDA programs
 - Market planning
 - Technical farming and peer support



*Funded by American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance Investment Program

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Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF)

- **FVC partnered with NAAF to gather critical input from Native American U.S. military veterans working in the agricultural industry**
- **Goal of partnership is to evaluate responses from the NAAF veteran survey which will be incorporated into a final report that will assist NAAF with their plan, “Reimagining Native Food Economies,” which is detailed here:**
 - https://nativeamericanagriculturefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NAAF_NativeFoodEcon_Web.pdf
- **Plan includes developing 10 regional food hubs throughout the country to provide native producers the infrastructure to create self-sustaining food systems for native and rural communities**



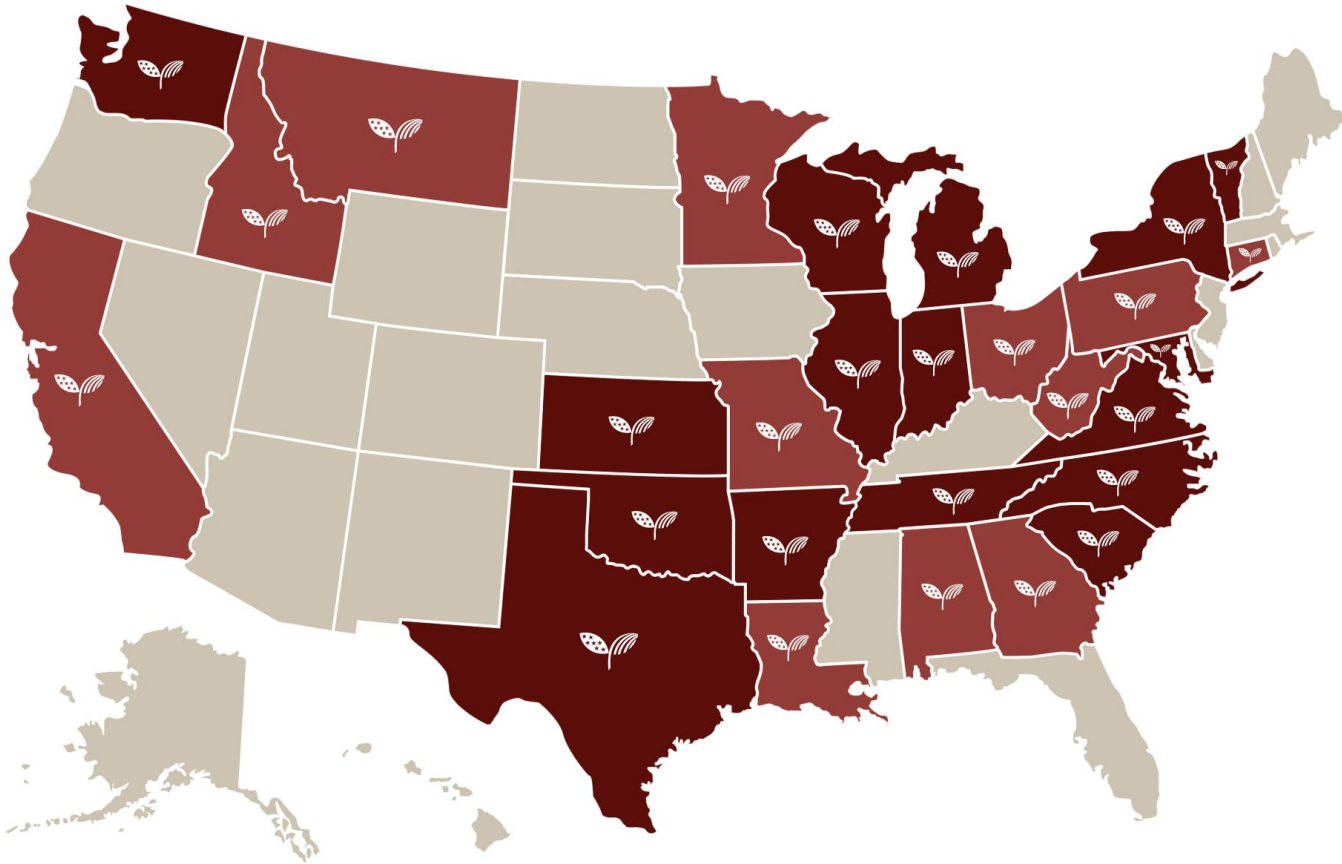
Navy vet Letty Martinez



State Chapters

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FVC State Chapters



Current Status:

- **16** state chapters formed
- **12** state chapters in formation

Purpose:

- Collaboration on local projects
- Networking and relationship building
- National movement at local level

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2022 National Conference

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Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference

- Each year, FVC holds a national Farmer Veterans Stakeholder Conference to bring everyone together for a couple days of learning, networking and camaraderie—whether in person or virtual
 - FVC also hosts regional meetings throughout the country as funding and need allows
- The 2022 Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference will be held the week of November 21 in Oklahoma City!
 - Stay tuned for more details



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