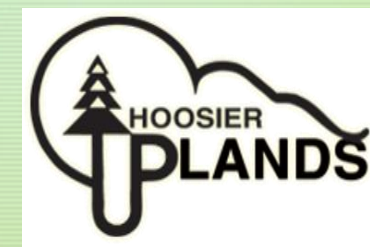


Indiana AgrAbility Veteran Outreach

2022 AgrAbility National Training Workshop
Madison, Wisconsin

■ Cindy Chastain
Joe Ricker
Ed Sheldon } **Indiana AgrAbility / NAP**

Linda Tarr } **Hoosier Uplands Economic
Development Corporation**



History and Highlights - Indiana AgrAbility Veteran Outreach



Cindy Chastain
Veteran Outreach Coordinator

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800-825-4264



- My Story
- Hired in 2014 for the National and Indiana AgrAbility Projects
- Part of 3 year Beginning Farmer Rancher Development project at Purdue University. Planned and hosted numerous Workshops and Farm tours for Veterans
- Started chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition in 2017
 - HGH and Indiana Grown combined label, presented by Indiana governor
- Able to combine the efforts of the FVC-IN with the services that Indiana AgrAbility can provide
- Over time, became the POC for Veterans in Agriculture at Purdue, Indiana state government agencies (Indiana Dept of Veterans Affairs, Indiana Department of Agriculture), USDA state offices and most VSOs.
- Indiana AgVets project and other projects
- Develop Relationships!



AgrAbility and Veterans

- AgrAbility has served veterans since its inception, but in the past, veteran status wasn't identified in many cases
- Currently partnering with programs for farmer veterans, like Farmer Veteran Coalition
- AgrAbility web page for veterans and beginning farmers www.nextmission.us



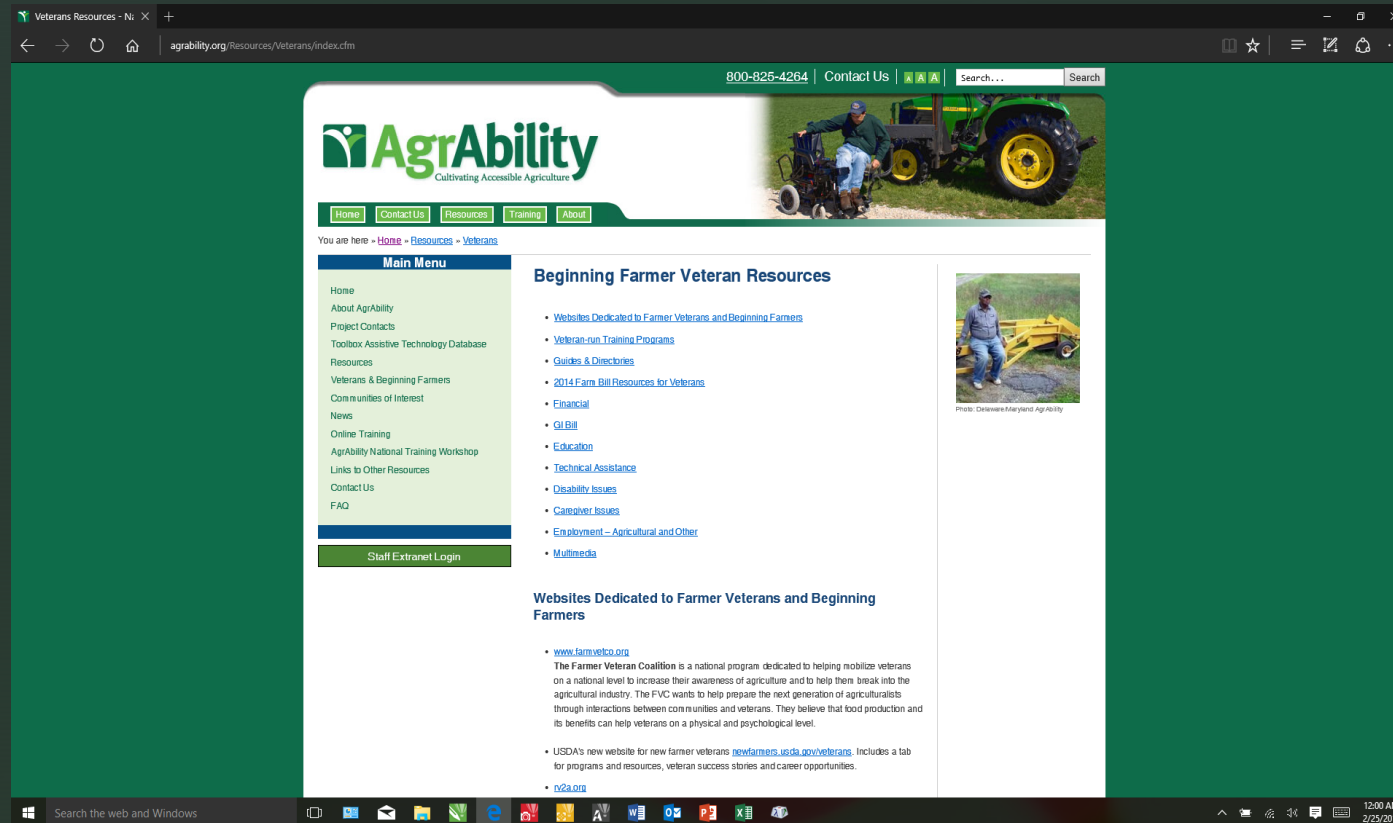
The Next Mission: Breaking Down Barriers for Veterans in Agriculture - YouTube



The Next Mission: Breaking down Barriers for Veterans in Agriculture Continued



Veteran and Beginning Farmer Resources



<http://www.agrability.org/Resources/Veterans/index.cfm>



Breaking Down Barriers for Veterans in Agriculture



The National AgrAbility Project has provided vital education, technical assistance, and support to farmers and ranchers with disabilities for over 30 years. Recognizing the physical and emotional challenges often faced by military veterans upon returning to civilian life, AgrAbility supports all military veterans who are



interested in transitioning into farming or other agriculture careers. No matter what branch of the military you served, farming or ranching could be your next mission.

AgrAbility's services to veterans include:

- Technical assistance
- Educational programs for beginning and experienced agriculturalists
- Agriculture and business resources
- Disability support and resources
- Networking with fellow veterans



Veterans are self-disciplined, mission-oriented, hardworking, and dedicated. Agriculture offers them a transition into civilian life, healing from challenges faced during service, and a fulfilling career.

www.nextmission.us



The National AgrAbility Project. This project supported by USDA/NIFA Grant 2018-70017-28551. Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity university

AgrAbility maintains strong ties with the **Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC)**, a national nonprofit seeking to create a new generation of farmers and food leaders by helping veterans pursue careers in agriculture and offering them a new purpose on America's farms. Its in-house programs include annual equipment grants, the Homegrown By Heroes branding label for veteran-grown products, and conferences that provide resources to enhance veterans' farming pursuits. Since over half its membership has a service-related disability, FVC partners closely with AgrAbility to support these farmer veterans.



Visit Farmvetco.org and AgrAbility.org for more information.

"I think farming is a great opportunity for veterans because we're not afraid of hard work and we won't quit..."

James Jeffers, US Army



"With the help of AgrAbility, I've been able to get resources and find ways to make my disability (which is transverse myelitis— inflammation of the spinal cord), to make my life and daily activities go a lot simpler!"

Keith Raspberry, US Army

"As military veterans, we're always looking for that next mission, and with farming I think that mission is to provide healthy food to our communities."

Sara Creech, US Air Force



Meet these farmer-veterans and discover agricultural resources and opportunities for all veterans!



Check out our website and view the video *The Next Mission: Breaking Down Barriers for Veterans in Agriculture*.

www.nextmission.us

DoD Skillbridge Program



Joe Ricker

AgrAbility Intern & DOD Army Skillbridge
Participant

ricker2@purdue.edu

800-825-4264



DoD Skillbridge Program

- Overview
- My Story
- What is DoD Skillbridge?
- Service Implementation
- How can transitioning Soldiers get into agriculture using DoD Skillbridge?





Indiana AgVets



*Agricultural Career Certification
& Internship Program for Military Veterans*

Linda Tarr
AgVet Program Manager
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Project Collaborators



Sponsor



Grant Number 2019-77028-29971



Indiana AgVets Eligibility

- ✓ Veterans
- ✓ Nat. Guard
- ✓ Reserves



NOTE: Participants are not required to have a disability. Project staff will address disability issues with each individual as needed.







AgVets Training

Core Trainings

- Program intro
- Safety & health (OSHA 10)
- Pesticide applicator
- *(no instructional fees)*

Supplemental Training

- Extension, industry training and certification programs
- Commercial Driver's License
- Master Gardener / Naturalist
- Livestock quality assurance
- Many, many more options
- Customized for each AgVet
- *Partial or full stipends for supplemental training programs*



Mentoring and Job Coaching

- Interns assigned a job coach/mentor
 - Develop personalized curriculum
 - Guidance throughout program
- Internship host mentor
 - Coordinates with project staff and intern
 - Serves as on-site mentor
- Disability services
 - AgrAbility assists AgVets and host sites to ensure accessibility
 - Counselors & mentors for service-related challenges (PTSD)



AgVets Internships

- Stipends paid
- Interns may be placed at:
 - Grain, livestock, or specialty farms
 - Agribusinesses such as crop services, grain handling, machinery dealers, etc.
 - Nurseries, turf & landscape operations, forest products
 - Depends on AgVet's interests!
- Purdue Agricultural Centers partnership
- Support from Indiana agribusinesses, ag. organizations
- Sites throughout Indiana



AgVet Program Partners



Indiana Veteran Farmer Workshop Series 2020-2021



Ed Sheldon
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In-person
workshops

Veterans
interested in
agriculture

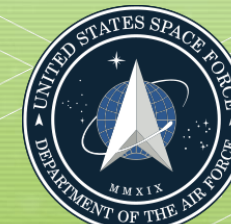
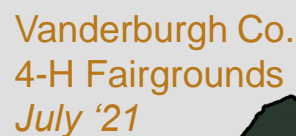
Varied topics,
speakers, &
formats

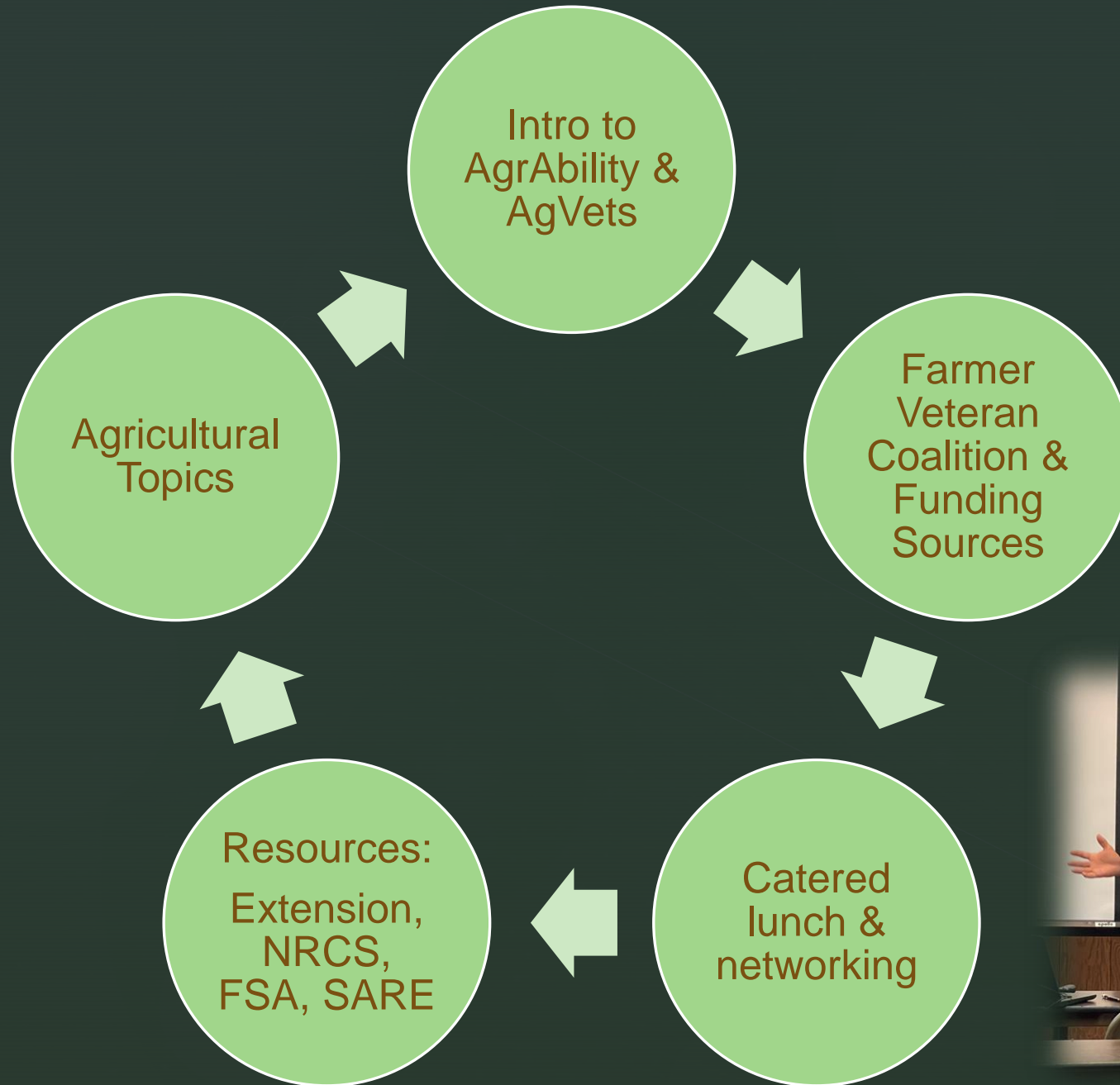
Resources
for farmer
veterans

Technical ag
information

Networking





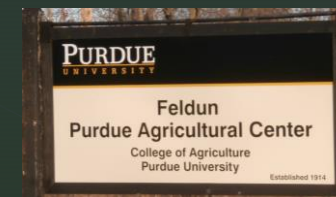
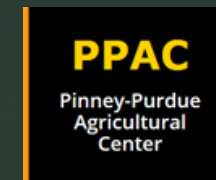


Typical Workshop Agenda





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Agriculture workshops set for military veterans
WEST LAFAYETTE — Indiana AgrAbility, hosted at Purdue University, will share agriculture opportunities and resources for military veterans at two Veterans Farmer Workshop and Indiana AgVets updates this summer. Veterans interested in or already involved with agriculture are encouraged to join to learn, network, and enjoy time with fellow veterans.

Purdue workshop offered for veterans in agriculture

Story by Abby Leeds • August 30, 2021



Indiana AgrAbility, hosted at Purdue University, **Purdue Extension** and the Farmer Veteran Coalition-Indiana chapter, are hosting a Northwest Indiana Veteran Farmer Workshop at Pinney Purdue Agricultural Center, 11402 S. County Line Road, in Wanatah, Indiana.

Veterans interested in learning more about agriculture and prospective or current Indiana AgVets are invited to network during the Summer Veterans Farmer Workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (CT). Topics will include:

Agriculture workshops for military veterans

Abby Leeds • June 24, 2021

Indiana AgrAbility, hosted at Purdue University, will share agriculture opportunities and resources for military veterans at two Veterans Farmer Workshop and Indiana AgVets updates this summer. Veterans interested in or already involved with agriculture are encouraged to join to learn, network and enjoy time with fellow veterans.

On July 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET, the first workshop will be held at Ivy Tech Community College Student Life Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hosts for this event include the Ivy Tech Fort Wayne Agriculture Program, Purdue Extension and AgrAbility staff and the Farmer Veteran Coalition - Indiana Chapter.

Topics covered at the July 2 event include:

- Overview and tour of Ivy Tech agriculture facilities
- Introduction to AgrAbility
- Extension and other resources for veterans and transitioning veterans

29°
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NEWTON COUNTY ENTERPRISE
Thursday, March 3, 2022

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Military veterans invited to attend agriculture workshop

By Abby Leeds Purdue News Service Oct 12, 2020



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Local workshop educates disabled veterans on agriculture careers

Zoezy Fields Times-Mail
Published October 27, 2021

BEDFORD — Indiana AgrAbility and Farmer Veteran Coalition of Indiana hosted a workshop Wednesday at the Feldman-Purdue Agricultural Center that focused on agricultural opportunities for military veterans.

It was the third of a series of successful workshops to help disabled veterans get involved in agriculture.

"Getting my hands in the soil was dirt therapy," Matthew Harvey, 38, of Terre Haute said.

Harvey was an active Army combat infantryman who was stationed in Afghanistan before he was medically retired in 2012 from back and hip injuries as well as traumatic brain injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

He now operates his own farm, Harvey Farms Organic Farm, and credits Indiana AgrAbility for his start in agriculture.

"I got into farming after I got out of the military," he said.

More Stories

Property transfers

When a loss feels like a win: Bedford North plays to epic double OT game

Veteran Farmer Workshop and Indiana AgVets Update — Vanderburgh County Fairgrounds — Evansville Indiana

July 15, 2021 @ 11:30 am - 4:00 pm CDT



Open to all military veterans interested in agriculture, this event will feature AgrAbility and Farmer Veteran Coalition opportunities.

The Veteran Farmer Workshop and Indiana AgVets Update is a full day in-person event focusing on agricultural opportunities for military veterans. This program will continue on the success of our October 2020, January 2021, and April 2021 workshops.

Carroll County
COMET
Thursday, March 3, 2022

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Purdue workshop offered for veterans in agriculture

Latest Editions



ED SHELDON
AGRABILITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, PURDUE UNIVERSITY.

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Thank you!

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