

# Inter-State Collaboration to Support Veteran and Other Beginner Farmers and Ranchers



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# **Battleground to Breaking Ground (BGBG)Project**

**By**

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# Learning Objectives

1. Introduction to BattleGround to Breaking Ground  
(Training program for beginner farmers/ranchers including business planning and hands-on learning)
2. Opportunities for partnership with other AgrAbility programs to support veterans and beginning farmers/ranchers in their state utilizing the BattleGround program.
3. Input from other AgrAbility programs on ways they support veterans and beginning farmers/ranchers and ideas they may have for partnership opportunities.

# Who We Serve

**Active-Duty Military,  
Transitioning  
Military, Military  
Veterans, and  
Spouses, other  
beginning  
farmer/ranchers**





# What We Do

# Provide Education & Support

- Training: Online and In-person
  - Farm/ranch business planning, management, & production specific practices
  - Hands-on learning opportunities
- Disability support:
  - Case management, farm/ranch assessments, disability recommendations, resource referrals





# Application Process

- 2 cohorts per year
- 15 tuition waived participants per cohort
- 4-6 SkillBridge participants per cohort
- Applications available in Summer & Winter.
- Score applications and accept applicants
- SkillBridge Participants apply, are accepted, and complete program along with cohort applicants (17 weeks - complete both phase 2 and phase 3 simultaneously)

# BattleGround to Breaking Ground Phases

## Phase 1 (2-Part)

### Online and 5 day In-Person Educational Workshop

- Rural Business Ideas
- Business Planning Basics
- Ag Safety
- Funding
- Intro to Ag Careers
- Intro to Ag Production

## Phase 2

### Online Education

- 16 weeks of business planning courses
- Individual Education Plan
- Community of Practice
- ***Developed business plan!***





# BattleGround to Breaking Ground Phases

## Phase 3

### Production Education

- Mentorship (Trained or of Choosing)
- Hands-On Training
- Production Agriculture Online Courses
- Team Project

## • Phase 4

### Mentorship Training

Must be a BGBG Graduate or STP Graduate

Training:

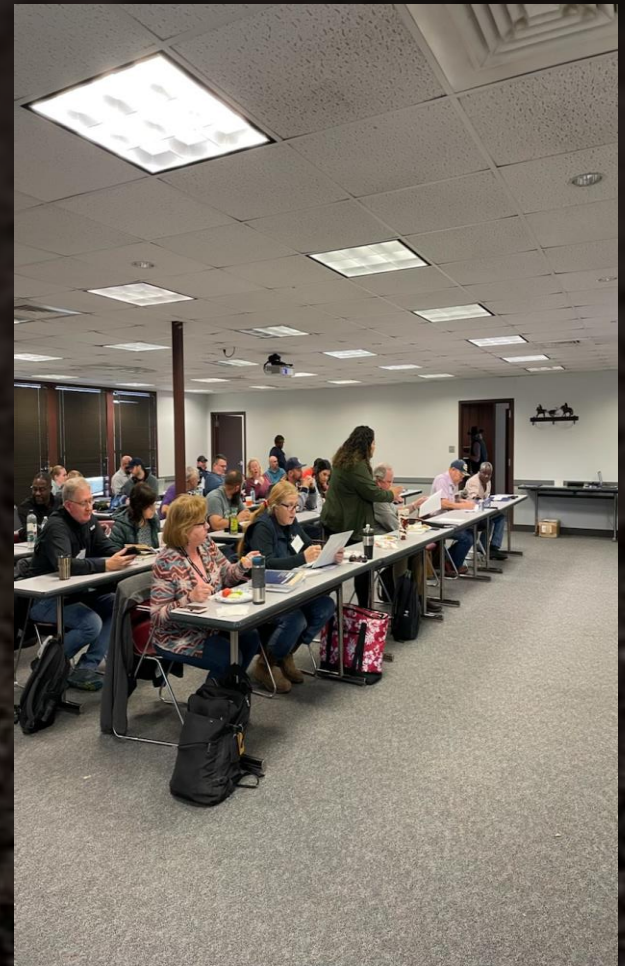
- Establishing mentee relationships
- Goal setting
- Completing the IEP and navigating the BGBG program
- Hosting hands-on learning and networking
- Safety best practices and farm liability
- CPR, First Aid, and QPR training

# Added Components

- 5-day Workshop (Bootcamp) to Phase 1
- Mentor Training Program
- Skills Training Program (SkillBridge)
- Fellowship Stipends for BGBG Graduates and STP Graduates
- Stipends for trained mentors



# Phase 1-5 Day Workshop





# Phase 2

## 16 Week Business Planning Course





# Phase 3



100 Hours of Hands-on Training & Production Specific Coursework



# Auxiliary Services

- **Community of Practice**
- **Trained Mentors**
- **Transition & Disability Services**
  - Total Health Coach
  - MyAdvisor
  - Texas Agrability





# How Can We Collaborate

- What does your state AgrAbility project currently do to support veteran and other beginning Farmer/Ranchers?
- What might we do to collaborate to support each others' efforts?

# Connect With Us

## Website

[Farmranch.tamu.edu](http://Farmranch.tamu.edu)

## Newsletter

[txagrability.tamu.edu/resources/newsletters/](http://txagrability.tamu.edu/resources/newsletters/)

## Facebook

[Planning Small Farms](#)  
[Texas Agrability](#)

## Events Calendar

[txagrability.tamu.edu/calendar/](http://txagrability.tamu.edu/calendar/)

## Email

[txagrability@gmail.com](mailto:txagrability@gmail.com)