

Growing Veteran Farmers

**“It’s about partnerships and
collaboration”**

Presented by: Joe Ricker (COL-Retired)

What are we doing?

- Veteran Community of Interest (once a month)
 - AgrAbility, Heroes to Hives, Farmer Veteran Coalition Chapters, Veterans Farm of North Carolina, Columbia Center for Urban Ag-Veterans Urban Farm-Missouri, SAVE Farm-Kansas, Veterans in Agriculture-Iowa, Veterans IN Farming-Indiana, Vets on the Farm-WA, many more
- Website
 - [Veterans & Beginning Farmers – National AgrAbility Project](#)
 - <http://www.agrability.org/resources/veterans/>

What are we doing?

- National Outreach
 - Boots to Business
 - Phone/Email mentorship
 - DoD Skillbridge
 - USDA Veteran Beginning Farm
- Department of Veteran Affairs-Partnership
 - Compensated Work Therapy
 - VA Farms Program

How to get started?

- Make a plan-“What do you want to be in 5 years”
 - Boots to Business Farmer, State Small Business Development
- Understand your market
 - Visit Farmers market, ask around, if it is not there-ask why?
- Take Training as needed
 - Food Safety
- Look for Resources
 - USDA, Nonprofit, mentors, etc.
- Enjoy it!



The **Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England**, in partnership with the **USDA**, invite veterans, service members, and military spouses to **Boots to Business Reboot for Veteran Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**. This full day workshop, will aid those interested in exploring agriculture-based business ownership by leading participants through the key steps for evaluating business concepts and providing foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan. Participants are introduced to a broad spectrum of entrepreneurial business concepts and resources, from experts across the industry, to access start-up capital, technical assistance, and more.

January 22, 2024
10:00 am - 5:00 pm est.
Virtual

Topics will include: What is Entrepreneurship? Homestead vs. Business Opportunity? Doing Your Market Research – Who is buying what you are growing/raising? Financing Your Venture – Short term and Long Range; Selecting The Correct Legal Structure for your Farm/Ranch; The Economics of Agriculture; Business Planning – From idea to roadmap; and SBA/USDA Resources for You

Register at:
https://bit.ly/b2b_jan22
space is limited, register early

Open to Active-Duty Service members (including National Guard and Reserve), Veterans of all eras, and spouses are eligible to participate. For more information contact Holly Aker, Veterans Business Outreach Center of New England, haker@cweonline.org, 844.404.2172



Questions/Comments?

Joe Ricker

ricker2@purdue.edu

262-388-1261