

# Checklist for Veterans Who are Farming (or Want to Farm)

November 16, 2024

As a farmer (or if you want to be a farmer), you ought to become familiar with these informational resources/agencies/organizations in your state.

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Cooperative Extension

- Identify the County Extension agriculturist in your county and arrange a meeting. Extension staff include professionals, educators, and specialists.
- Visit the Beginning Farmer Resource Network website in your state to view information and all of the agencies that assist new farmers.
- If you have a physical or cognitive disability (or limitation), consider connecting with the AgrAbility program in your state or the National AgrAbility Program <http://www.agrability.org/> Not all states have such programs.

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USDA Veteran Initiatives <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/initiatives/veterans>

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USDA Service Center for your county

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) for \$ loans <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?>
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to learn about their programs for farmers and landowners <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

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Farm Credit for \$ agricultural loans <https://farmcredit.com/>

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State Department of Agriculture – Search for your state or contact the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. <https://www.nasda.org/> They could provide the contact for your state. Your state department of agriculture likely has offices that address the following aspects of agriculture.

- Licensing & Regulations
- Bureaus & Programs
- Marketing
- Business & Technical Assistance
- Pesticide Use & Certification - Board of Pesticides Control

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Farmer Veteran Coalition – <https://farmvetco.org/> You can join FVC and be kept informed of their programs and services. There is no fee to join.

Identify other farmer veterans groups in your state and strengthen your network.

TO DO:

- Assemble a list of questions you may have about farming.
- Identify the Extension agriculturist in your county.
- Contact that Extension staff member and request a farm visit.
- Ask about Extension mailing lists that fit your locale or interests.

Mark the farm enterprise type(s) in which you are interested

beef  dairy  bees  goat  poultry  rabbit  sheep  swine  
 berries/small fruit  tree fruit  vegetables  nuts  grain  herbs  flowers  hemp  
 hay  maple  hops  Christmas trees  forestry  other \_\_\_\_\_

## Checklist for Veterans Who Want to Find Farm Employment

Make a list of the skills and knowledge you want to learn.

Think about what type of farm you want to work on.

beef  dairy  bees  goat  poultry  rabbit  sheep  swine

berries/small fruit  tree fruit  vegetables  nuts  grain  herbs  flowers  hemp

hay  maple  hop  Christmas trees  forestry  other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Cooperative Extension in your county.

Ask to speak with the staff member who is the agriculturist.

Develop a short list of questions you may have about farm work.

Ask the Extension staff person for help in answering your questions about farm work.

Determine if you want to full-time, part-time, or seasonal work.

If you have a physical or cognitive disability (or limitation), consider contacting Extension's AgrAbility program. Not all states have AgrAbility programs. Here's the link to the National AgrAbility Project.

<http://www.agrability.org/>

If you want to identify farms for possible employment in your locale, consider searching the internet.

Connect with your local Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

