

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

Become familiar with these informational resources/agencies/organizations in Maine.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension www.extension.maine.edu 1.800.287.0274

- Identify the County Extension agriculturist in your county and arrange a meeting. Extension staff include professionals, educators, and specialists. www.extension.maine.edu/county-offices/all/
 - Visit the Beginning Farmer Resource Network website to view information and all of the agencies that assist farmers in Maine. www.extension.maine.edu/beginning-farmer-resource-network/
 - If you have a physical or cognitive disability (or limitation), consider connecting with UMaine Extension's AgrAbility program. www.extension.maine.edu/agrability/ 207.944.1533
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USDA Service Center for your county

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance and loan programs 207.990.9100 Ext 2
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=me&agency=fsa>
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to learn about their programs for farmers and landowners
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/me/contact/local/ 207.990.9100 Ext 3
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Farm Credit East for agricultural loans, leasing, tax services, accounting, and crop insurance.

- www.farmcrediteast.com, Presque Isle 1.800.831.4650 or Auburn 1.800.831.4230
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Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA) www.mofga.org 207.568.4142

- Inquire about education and opportunities specific to veterans
 - Consider organic certification
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Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry (DACF) <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/> 207.287.3200

- Licensing & Regulations <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/licensing/index.html>
 - Bureaus & Programs <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/divisions.shtml>
 - Marketing & Business https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/business_and_market_development/index.shtml
 - Pesticide Use & Certification <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/>
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United Farmer Veterans of Maine

- Identify other farmer veterans and strengthen your network <https://www.ufvme.us/> 207.323.167

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 UMaine Cooperative Extension in your county. www.extension.maine.edu/county-offices/all/

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 UMaine Extension's AgrAbility program. www.extension.maine.edu/agrability/

If you want to identify farms for possible employment in your locale, consider searching the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's website. You can search by county, crop, animal, or product. <https://www.getrealmaine.com/Food-Farms-and-Forest-Search>

Connect with your local Vet Center <https://www.maine.va.gov/visitors/VetCenters.asp>



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