Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison

A new leadership position established by the 2014 Farm Bill

Our mandate:

- Assist veterans in beginning a farming or ranching career
- Connect veterans to resources and advocate on behalf of veterans at USDA
- Support veterans in agriculture through cooperative agreements and contracts
Why is USDA involved?

Rural America is 16% of the population; 19% of veterans come from rural America.

Farming is...

- Meaningful work when veterans come home
- A path to recovery and healing
- Opportunity for service and community involvement
- What veterans are asking for

A path to recovery and healing
Priorities of the Military Veterans Agriculture Liaison

1. **Veterans in Farming**
   by making USDA programs accessible

2. **Veterans Employment**
   at USDA and in agribusiness

3. **Support for Military Families**
   in nutrition, housing, and health

4. **Partnerships**
   with Federal, State, local efforts

USDA Rural Development Mission Area Serves Veterans

Veterans often face difficult challenges associated with health care, homelessness and job loss. Living in a rural area where access to services can be limited can lead to increased distress for the veteran and their family.
RHS helps Veterans thrive in rural America by providing:

- Direct Loans
- Loan Guarantees
- Home Repair Loans and grants
- Multi-Family Housing
- Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs

Rural Housing Service’s Commitment to Veterans

Since 2008 RHS has invested in

14,134 Veteran Households

through Single-Family Housing Programs
Rural Housing Service’s Commitment to Veterans

Since 2008 RHS has invested more than

$1.45 Billion

in Veteran Homeownership through Single-Family Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs

Since 2008 RHS has invested more than

$14.9 Million

To support existing homes of Veterans through Home Repair Loans and Grants
RHS Builds Communities Supporting Veterans

RHS Community Facilities Program funding can be used to:

- Purchase, construct or upgrade a Veteran’s health service facility
- Local and regional food system projects
- Upgrade or expand existing buildings to provide job training or social, educational or wellness events

Veterans Shelter in New Hampshire

The Bridge House, (Plymouth, NH) - $35,200 CF Grant – 8/18/14

Rural Development funds were used to renovate a space into a Veterans and Homeless Advocacy Center and thrift store.

Bridge House also operates a separate homeless shelter.
Thank you!

“Veterans have sacrificed dearly to keep this country safe. Every day, they confront and triumph over those that threaten our national security. We owe it to our military men and women to ensure a different kind of security is waiting when they return home—the security that comes from the promise of a good job, affordable housing, a quality education and dependable health care.”

Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

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Coming Soon:
www.usda.gov/veterans