

TX Veterans & Agriculture

- Texas has the second largest Veteran population in the United States (about 1.5 million).
- 45% of Veterans come from rural areas.
- Texas ranks in the top 3 in production agriculture in the United States.
- Many Veterans report the therapeutic aspects of agriculture being integral to their transition.



“That’s why Veterans are a good fit for farming. We don’t quit. Feeding America is our next mission.”

- James Jeffers, Army Veteran

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-  Planning Small Farms
-  Texas AgrAbility Community of Practice
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Partners:



2017

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Battleground to Breaking Ground



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Texas
AgrAbility
Assisting • Connecting • Empowering

STEP 1 Crawl

- Attend Free Ag Workshop—topics include:
 - The parts of a business plan
 - Overview of available resources, services & funding
 - Brainstorm ideas on how to make money in agriculture
- Connect with other veterans

STEP 2 Walk

- Apply to Battleground to Breaking Ground Entrepreneur Training Project (spring and fall applications)
- Complete online course training—including but not limited to:
 - Planning for Profit on Small Scale Farms
 - Marketing Basics for Small Business
 - Planning with Budgets
- Participate in peer-to-peer support network
- Explore additional services:
 - Disability support
 - Transition services
 - Financial funding sources
- Develop and write a personal business plan

STEP 3 Run

- Complete 100 hours of hands-on training and mentorship
- Receive a Certificate of Completion—provides access to:
 - Land for lease to start operations
 - Equipment
 - Markets



Battleground to Breaking Ground Laredo

"What I liked most was the knowledge of the speakers and the amount of useful information."

"I really enjoyed the consolidation of a variety of information. A one-stop shop."

"The best way to heal was to provide therapy for myself. I needed something more than medication. I needed to get outside and feel a real sense of purpose again, and that is what farming has given me."

- Adam Burke, Veteran

"If this workshop would have been around when I started, I would have achieved my dream of owning a ranch 10 years sooner and at half the cost!"

- Doug Havemann, Amy Veteran & Workshop Participant

