



ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture

A program of the National Center for Appropriate Technology • 1-800-346-9140 • www.attra.ncat.org

Veteran Resources

Call 1-800-346-9140 or visit www.attra.ncat.org.

How Can ATTRA Help You?

Farmers and ranchers are looking for reliable information on sustainable and organic agriculture, on how to get started in farming, on how to qualify for government programs that reward land stewardship and resource conservation, and on how to pursue such profitable niche markets as organic meats and grains or agriculture tourism. The answers to these and many other similar questions are available free from ATTRA - Sustainable Agriculture, a program of the nonprofit National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT).

Publications

ATTRA publications cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Horticultural crops
- Field crops
- Soils and composts
- Pest management
- Irrigation, water conservation, and water quality issues
- Livestock production
- Grass farming
- Marketing and business strategies
- Market gardening
- Risk management
- Agricultural energy
- Organic certification, production, and marketing

Visit www.attra.ncat.org to view a complete list of our publications. Most are available to download in PDF format.

Tutorials

ATTRA offers free, online self-instruction courses to help beginning farmers and producers who want to diversify their operations or expand their markets. The courses include a variety of educational tools such as worksheets, narrated PowerPoint presentations, videos, and tip sheets.

- Beginning Farmer Business Planning, Marketing, and Sheep, Goat & Poultry Resources
<https://attra.ncat.org/oasdf>
- Getting Started in Farming: An Introduction to Farm Business Planning
<http://northcarolina.ncat.org>



Technical Assistance

ATTRA's friendly staff members are knowledgeable about livestock, horticulture, agronomy, organic farming, marketing, farm energy, and many other sustainable agriculture topics, and are available to provide free assistance.

ATTRA offers several ways producers can contact an agriculture specialist, who will research questions and send the client a report, including sources of more information.

- Call ATTRA at 1-800-346-9140 (English) or 1-800-411-3222 (Spanish)
- Use our online Ask A Sustainable Agriculture Expert form at <https://attra.ncat.org/ask.php>
- Text your questions to askanag@ncat.org

Website

In addition to over 300 publications, ATTRA's website contains webinars, videos, searchable databases, and the Farmer Knows Best forum, plus tools to keep you up-to-date on what's happening in sustainable agriculture:

- Calendar of events
- Funding opportunities
- Weekly Harvest e-news

Armed to Farm: Sustainable Agriculture Training for Military Veterans

NCAT has been involved in targeted veteran outreach and assistance since 2010. NCAT agriculture specialists have hosted and been involved in at least 17 veteran focused trainings, reaching over 800 veterans across the US.

NCAT has partnered with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Farmer Veteran Coalition, University of Arkansas, Growing Warriors, and other sustainable agriculture organizations to train veterans interested in sustainable agriculture careers.

The goals of Armed to Farm are:

- To train veterans and their partners to operate sustainable crop and livestock enterprises
- To create a network of veterans and their families who are starting careers in sustainable agriculture
- To provide technical assistance to participants as they start and improve their farming operations

Trainings range in length from conference presentations, two-day workshops, and week-long training events. The multi-day programs include a mix of educational classes—covering topics such as risk management, business planning, and marketing—and hands-on activities at successful livestock, crop, and agritourism operations.

Funding for Armed to Farm has come from NCAT's ATTRA - Sustainable Agriculture program, USDA Rural Business Cooperative Services, USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, USDA Risk Management Agency and Swords to Plowshares.

For information on upcoming training and opportunities, visit <https://www.ncat.org/armedtofarm>



Participants in the Armed to Farm training held in Jackson, Miss., Sept. 22-26, 2014.

Contact Margo Hale at 479-442-9824 or margoh@ncat.org for more information about Armed to Farm, or visit <https://www.ncat.org/armedtofarm>.



Armed to Farm attendees get plenty of hands-on experience, from building hoophouses to feeding pastured poultry.

What participants say about Armed to Farm training:

"This was one of the best workshops, if not the best, in any field I have been involved in. It was a great mix of hands-on and classroom instruction. The instructors were very experienced and knowledgeable."

"As a Wounded Warrior Project Alumni, two-time Iraq veteran, and beginning farmer I can, without hesitation, recommend the Armed to Farm program to any veteran seeking knowledge in a wide variety of agricultural topics."

"Thank you! I feel that this program has changed the way we will farm in the future."

