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**FARMER VETERAN**

**COALITION**

[www.farmvetco.org](http://www.farmvetco.org)

# FVC Mission



The mission of the Farmer Veteran Coalition is to *Mobilize Veterans to Feed America.*

# FVC Director- Michael O'Gorman

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- I've spent over 40 years in large-scale organic production agriculture.
- I started FVC to help rebuild the US farm population by training veterans to be the next generation of American farmers.



# Why Vets and Farming?



- We believe that veterans possess the unique skills and character needed to strengthen rural communities.
- We believe that food production offers purpose, opportunity, and physical and psychological benefits.



● *Rural America makes up 1/6 of the population of the United States; those who serve us in uniform, 45%...*”

- *Secretary Vilsack*
- *February 18, 2010*



# FVC Principles





© We guide the passion of veterans so that they may earn meaningful, financially sustainable place in the agricultural community.






© We believe in the meritocracy of American Agriculture, where one's actions and initiative can create personal success. We believe in the fundamental dignity of physical work.






A photograph of a family of four in a greenhouse. A man in a light blue shirt and khaki pants stands on the left. A woman in a green sweater and dark pants stands on the right, holding a baby in a white outfit and a brown hat. A young child in a white shirt and blue jeans sits in the center, holding a poinsettia plant. The background is filled with rows of poinsettias hanging from the ceiling and growing in beds.

● We acknowledge the plurality of agricultural crops, practices, scale, and markets available to our veterans. We honor, guide, and support the practical farming path chosen by each veteran.



A man with a goatee, wearing a tan baseball cap with a logo, sunglasses, and a tan t-shirt with the word "AMERICA" and stars on it, stands with his hands on his hips next to a red tractor. The background shows a grassy field with tall pine trees under a clear sky. The image is framed with a dark border on the sides.

© We are committed to leveraging our work through a network of partnerships. This allows us to more effectively help a larger number of veterans, particularly those in the onset of their civilian careers.



A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a black hoodie and a tan cap with an American flag patch, stands in a field. He is leaning on a wooden post of a fence. In the background, there are several brown cows grazing in a field under a clear blue sky.

© We support all valid national, regional, or crop-specific efforts to connect veterans with agriculture and encourage collaboration with other groups providing services to our nation's veterans.





© We sponsor and encourage both employment and self-employment in agriculture, and equally value the contributions made by all members of the agricultural industry who feed America.

CUYAMA  
ORCHARDS  
CUYAMA, CA 93232





© We are conscious of the high number of veterans returning with visible and invisible wounds. We respect the privacy of our veterans, and provide support to help them be stronger farmers.



# FVC Programs

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# The Fellowship Fund

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- The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund has awarded \$350,000 in small grants for capital purchases or agricultural training.



# FEED

- Farm Equipment Exchange & Donations (FEED) matches veterans with tax-deductible donations of new and used farm equipment.





# Career Development

- Career Development assists veterans seeking employment throughout the agriculture industry and helps those who need to juggle both on-farm and off-farm income.





# Women Veterans

- Our annual Empowering Women Veterans: Agriculture, Business and Well-being Conference connects women who have built careers in both agriculture and the military.



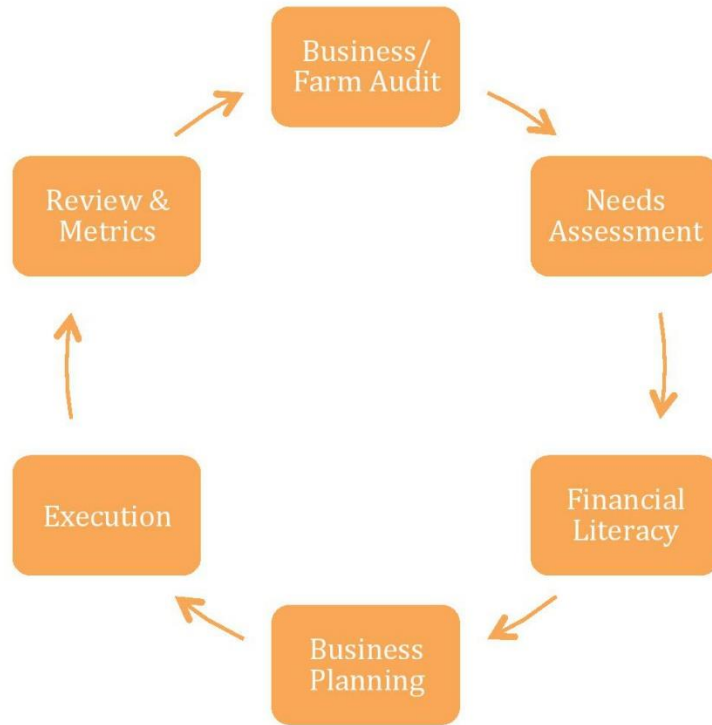
# Homegrown by Heroes

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# Farm Building



**THE 'FARM BUILDING' PROGRAM CYCLE**  
(FIGURE 1): Upon acceptance into the program, the farmer-veteran begins a cycle of assessment, training and execution with support of FVC staff.

- Farm Building assists veterans with financial planning, legal assistance and other free services to grow their food and farm business.



# Contact Us

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