



North Carolina is home to the 7th highest population of military veterans in the nation. Agricultural jobs offer a viable path for returning service members to transition into society and capitalize on skills that made them successful in the military.



Photos by Rachel Damiani

Boots on the Ground: North Carolina's Veteran Farmer Registered Apprenticeship

We are now recruiting host farms/farmers, farmer veteran mentors, and apprentices to start the first cohort in the spring of 2022.

As North Carolina's first registered agricultural apprenticeship program for military veterans, Boots on the Ground: NC Veteran Farmer Apprenticeship aims to increase the pool of trained agricultural workers for management and entrepreneurial positions at farming operations in North Carolina.

Program details:

- Business Involvement: Host farms oversee the apprentices on a day-to-day basis, and employ the veterans with an hourly wage. Veterans will also be paired one-on-one with another experienced farmer veteran.
- Structured on the Job Training (OTJ): Apprentices will be paid employees of the host farms so they can "earn while they learn." They will be expected to work 30-40 hours a week throughout the apprenticeship.
- Relevant Technical Instruction (RTI): Apprentices will receive technical and academic training around the core competencies identified in the curriculum.
- Rewards for Skill Gains: The apprentices will receive pay increases after each 6-month period or when they meet certain benchmarks for skill competencies.
- Recognized Credentials: The program will be registered with ApprenticeshipNC and upon completion, apprentices will be given an industry recognized credential.

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