

TEXAS VETERANS & AGRICULTURE

- ***Texas ranks 2nd in Veteran population in the United States (about 1.6 million).***
- ***1 in 7 jobs in Texas is agriculture related.***
- ***50,004 producers served in the military & control 19,249,176 acres.***
- ***Many Veterans report that the therapeutic benefits of agriculture were integral to their successful transition.***



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

**BATTLEGROUND TO
BREAKING GROUND**

"This program provided me the skills I needed for my operation. I directly credit this program for increasing the profitability of my operation by 6,000% in 2020 and a \$15,000 capital reinvestment which allowed me to open a wholesale and retail nursery operation in addition to expanding the existing produce operation."

-Damon Cleaton, 4E Farms

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TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

BATTLEGROUND TO BREAKING GROUND

AGRICULTURE TRAINING
PROGRAM FOR MILITARY
VETERANS AND BEGINNING
FARMERS/RANCHERS

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

**BATTLEGROUND TO
BREAKING GROUND**

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- \$1000 stipend to eligible program graduates
- Certified BattleGround Mentors get paid to offer training to current participants
- Veteran and Active-Duty transition services
- Individual Education & Financial Planning
- Expanded access to funding for agriculture operations
- Connection to extensive network of resources & support
- Disability services & support
- Agriculture safety and mental health trainings



ONLINE COURSES AND IN-PERSON

PHASE 1: START

BattleGround Phase 1 Workshop

- Introduction to farm/ranch business ideas, business planning & agriculture funding programs

BattleGround Bootcamps

- Introduction to agriculture production: hands-on trainings & farm tours

PHASE 2: PLAN

- 16 weekly online modules to develop a complete agriculture operation business plan

PHASE 3: TRAIN

- Agriculture Production Training
- Mentorship
- 100 Hands-On Learning Hours
- Certificate of Completion that helps open doors to funding

PHASE 4: TRAIN OTHERS

- Become a certified BattleGround to Breaking Ground Mentor
- Get paid to provide farm & ranch hands-on learning opportunities

HOW TO ACCESS THE BATTLEGROUND PROGRAM

TUITION WAIVED OPTION

- **Apply- 15 waivers per cohort**
Spring & Fall Applications
- **Attend Basic Training & Graduation In-Person**
- **Complete Phase 2 & Phase 3**
- Phase 3 training hours can be completed with your chosen mentor at your chosen location.

TUITION BASED OPTION

- **Register & pay the tuition**
 - \$600 for Phase 2
 - \$900 for Phase 3
- **Classwork can be completed online**
- Phase 3 training hours can be completed with your chosen mentor at your chosen location.

"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."

"VETERANS ARE A GOOD FIT FOR FARMING. WE DON'T QUIT. FEEDING AMERICA IS OUR NEXT MISSION."
- JAMES JEFFERS, ARMY 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, ARMY VETERAN & MENTOR