Dear Friends,

Farmer Veteran Coalition began eight years ago with the mission of Mobilizing Veterans to Feed America. What we found were thousands of men and women looking for meaningful work, who found farming to be good for their well-being, their families, and their communities.

2016 was a banner year for FVC. We began by completing our Strategic Plan, giving us the direction and guidance needed to better serve our farmer veterans and sustain the organization they need to support them.

Every time we are able to help a veteran purchase cattle or dig a well with our Fellowship Fund, give them recognition in the marketplace with the Homegrown By Heroes label, or assist them in their quest for land or financing, we are grateful to you, our supporters, who make this important work possible.

Sincerely,

Michael O’Gorman  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The Homegrown By Heroes label is an agricultural food label that informs consumers a product was produced by a veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces. This label provides consumers with a tangible way to support veterans while providing an avenue to share the veteran’s story.

Available to farmers, ranchers, fishermen and value-added producers who served, or are currently serving, the Homegrown By Heroes label gives farmer veterans the point-of-sale visibility needed to be successful in the marketplace.

**State Partners**
Farmer Veteran Coalition has partnered with 16 state departments of agriculture to promote the Homegrown By Heroes label in their states. Eleven of these states have created a merged logo taking elements from their own ‘Buy Local’ logo and combining with the Homegrown By Heroes label.

### Sarah Orban U.S. ARMY
**Thunder Bay Maple Supply | Posen, MI**
Sarah Orban comes from a long line of maple syrup producers. Growing up in Cabot, VT, she kept busy by tending to her father’s operation which consisted of nearly 45,000 taps. After high school, Sarah narrowed her future down to two paths: stay home and help run the family business, or serve her country in the Army. She chose the latter.

After serving her time as a military police officer which included a 2005 deployment to Iraq, Sarah eventually returned to her maple syrup roots in 2010 when she opened Thunder Bay Maple Supply, a maple syrup supply store in Posen, Mich.

Recently, Sarah expanded her operation to include a sugarhouse which allows her to produce maple syrup. Now, Sarah is the ninth generation of her family to produce the sticky, sweet substance, and she does it under the Homegrown By Heroes label.

### Jon Darling U.S. ARMY
**Darling Farm | Awendaw, SC**
“Each of my packages has the Homegrown By Heroes logo on it which sets it apart from other similar products in a store or at a market. It also adds a sense of pride for me and the customer as well as starts a conversation about veteran farmers, creating a unique relationship between the customer and farmer.”
The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund is our small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in the early stages of launching their farming operations. With awards ranging from $1,000 to $5,000, purchases are made to third parties on behalf of the veteran for critical items such as breeding livestock, used tractors, greenhouses, irrigation systems and more.

Since it was established in 2011, the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund has awarded more than $1 million in small grants thanks to generous supporters: Prudential, Bob Woodruff Foundation, Newman’s Own Foundation, Kubota Tractor Corporation and Prairie Grove Farms.

### 2016 FELLOWSHIP STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$349,450 IN AWARDS</th>
<th>4 TRACTORS TOTALING $100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>125 FELLOWS</td>
<td>$ 2,841 AVERAGE AWARD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FELLOWSHIP IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 WELLS DRILLED</th>
<th>6 BARNS BUILT</th>
<th>12 GREENHOUSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 HEAD OF CATTLE</td>
<td>40 HOGS</td>
<td>600 HENS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Carey Howell
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**  
SC Truffieres & Howell Specialty Farmz | Fort Mill, SC

Army National Guard veteran Carey Howell received a 2016 Farmer Veteran Fellowship which he used to purchase a walk-behind tractor thanks to generous support from Prudential. Carey owns and operates SC Truffieres & Howell Specialty Farmz in Fort Mill, SC, where he grows a variety of fruits, vegetables, truffles, and raises bees and poultry under the Homegrown By Heroes label.

#### Josh Eilers
**U.S. ARMY**  
Ranger Cattle | Austin, TX

Army veteran Josh Eilers (OIF & OEF) received a 2016 Farmer Veteran Fellowship which he used to purchase a squeeze chute, palpation cage and carriage thanks to generous support from Kubota Tractor Corporation. Josh owns and operates Ranger Cattle in Austin, Texas, where he produces Wagyu beef under the Homegrown By Heroes label.
Launched in 2015 as a partnership between Kubota Tractor Corporation and Farmer Veteran Coalition, the “Geared to Give” program provides financial support and donated Kubota equipment to U.S. Military veterans pursuing a future in farming.

The “Geared to Give” program works to identify the needs and further the agricultural careers of those who have served their country and are now serving their communities through farming. In order to be eligible for the program, a farmer veteran must have first applied for, and received, an award through the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund.

Each quarter, one farmer veteran representing each of the four geographical regions of the country — Northeastern, Southeastern, Central and Western — is selected to receive a Kubota L-Series compact tractor. In 2016, the following farmer veterans were awarded a Kubota L-Series compact tractor:

1. Navy veteran Julie Hollars of Farbotnik Farm in Vallecito, California
2. Marine veteran Jason Scramlin of Split Rail Farm in Hickory Corners, Michigan
3. Marine veteran Aaron White of White Stock and Produce in Carlisle, Iowa
4. Army veteran Chad Tackett of Tackett Family Farms in Lincolnton, Georgia
As part of the mission to mobilize veterans to feed America, Farmer Veteran Coalition expanded its focus in 2016 on placing veterans in internships, providing aspiring farmer veterans with the training and education necessary to launch a successful career in agriculture.

In 2016, Farmer Veteran Coalition placed interns on farms throughout the country with extraordinary results:

### Nate Looney
**LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD**

**Westside Urban Gardens | Los Angeles, CA**

Nate Looney is not your typical farmer. Young, fit and full of enthusiasm, he bears few similarities with an aging farming population that is dwindling with each new harvest. Nate, however, is part of a new wave of veterans embarking on careers in agriculture after returning home from serving their country overseas.

Serving as a military policeman for eight years in the Louisiana National Guard, Nate deployed to Iraq’s Al Anbar Province and supported local law enforcement with evacuation, and law and order operations in support of Hurricane Katrina.

After separating from the National Guard, Nate went back to school and became interested in agriculture. It was during this time he reached out to Farmer Veteran Coalition about an internship opportunity and was placed on Ouroborors Farms, a commercial aquaponics and permaculture farm in Half Moon Bay, California.

At Ouroboros Farms, Nate completed a three-month program where he was immersed in aquaponics farming, getting invaluable hands-on experience learning the trade.

Today, Nate owns and operates Westside Urban Gardens, an urban agricultural start-up in Los Angeles, where he grows a wide-variety of produce, and also works with homeowners and multi-unit residences to create sustainable aquaponics systems.
$250,000 and above
Farm Credit Council
Prudential Financial
United States Department of Agriculture

$100,000 and above
Kubota Tractor Corporation
Newman’s Own Foundation
Schmidt Family Foundation / 11th Hour Project
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Bob Woodruff Foundation

$50,000 and above
Prairie Grove Farms
Safeway Foundation

$10,000 and above
CHS Foundation
Flora Family Foundation
Leadership Legacy Life Foundation — L3
Mental Insight Foundation
Miller Quality Produce
Wells Fargo Foundation

$5,000 and above
American Farm Bureau Federation
Lynn Campbell
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Cooks Company Produce
Moving Forward Advisory Council
National Farmers Union
Nationwide
USAA

$1,000 and above
Alpha Gamma Rho
California Family Farms
CNY Community Foundation
Farm Credit East Cares
Farm Credit Illinois
Froggy’s Bar & Grill
Jacobs Farm-Del Cabo Inc.
Patrick Lejeune
Lucero Olive Oil LLC
Northern Trust
Phi of Alpha Gamma Rho
Thomas O’Gorman
Pitcairn Trust Company
Chris Rognier
Naomi Sobel
Jon Smibert
May Tam
United Natural Foods, Inc.

$500 and above
Diana Blalock
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Erica Chow
Jesse Ziff Cool
Heath & Lejeune
Robert Joambah
Penny Kole
Sharon Lipinski
Gary Matteson
Payne Middleton
Oregon-Brooklyn Memorial — VFW Post 10272
Debra Rask
Razoo Foundation
Red Fox Cellars
Patrick Sheely
Timothy Stuart
Kathy Wilczek
Ann Wiseman

$100 and above
Julia Adams
Kathy Barnhill
Russell Barnhill
Jack Berg
The Booker Farm LLC
Leah Brayman
Lisa Brinnon
Broadmoor Presbyterian Church
B-Unlimited Inc.
Mary Carhartt
Daniel Carlson
Matthew Chalkley
Kim Chi
Anthony Ciampo
Cobb/O’Malley/Yorks Families
Coke Farm
David Cook
James Crosby
George Davis
Gena Delucchi
Janet Eagan
Mary Elizabeth
Emanuel Epstein
Louie Feletto
Bruce Frank
Kyle Geissler
Kirsten Gjesdal
Bowie Gou
Eric Grandon
GuideStar
Jake Handlovic
Harry Hartjen
Brian Heeke
James Helms
Heringer Estates Winery
Theodore Horst
Ben Housel
June Hubbard
Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation
Eugene Kogan
Little Mountain Homestead
Laura Lundin
Benjamin Martin
Paul Martin
Jacqlynn McGarry
Linda McGaeth
Darrin McKie
Richard Mestas
Morse Marketing Connections, LLC
Andrea Myklebust
Christine Negra
Sandra Nichols
Thomas O’Gorman
James Page
Crystal Parrish
Robyn Pawlo
Mary Peck
Christine Pielenz
Kathleen Rogers
Jack Russell
Sans Soucy Vineyards, LLC
Nance Sawyer
Thomas Scott
Patricia Shearer
Linda Speel
Swanton Berry Farms
Alan Tempin
United Way of the National Capital Area
Deborah Vaughn
Michael Wagers
Leon Wendte
Kari Williams
Jeff Zerger

84 individuals and organizations made a contribution of less than $100.

If we inadvertently left your name off the list, we apologize. Please let us know so you may be acknowledged in the future.