

It's small grants like this one that make us feel valued and supported. It's humbling to be served. Farming is all about community, and FVC really is its own community. To be physically active, outside, working with my twin, and having our family out there – it's really an American dream.

**- Ladonna Avakian & Heather Paterson
Hollyaire Farm, Junction City, Oregon**

I have had a long 7 years of recovery including 30 surgeries and 2 years of hospitalization. Starting this farm has given me a new mission, purpose and direction in my life. I feel more alive than I have been. FVC believed in me and awarded me funds to install fencing around my hopyard. As a 32-year Army veteran, leadership is a part of who I am. Now we are using the farm to help other wounded veterans. Veterans were made to become farmers. We love to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

**- Michael Trost, Pokeadot Hops and Garden
Madisonville, Tennessee**

After my accident and getting medically retired, I lost the career I wanted and worked hard for, and lost the brotherhood unlike anything I had ever known. Once I realized I could use horses to work cattle – my whole world changed.

**- James Webb, Conway Cattle Company
Madison County, Virginia**

Having a brain injury can be very frustrating at times, but animals provide a reprieve for me. Farming keeps me sound in my mind, and the animal and plant care keeps me on schedule. I asked for this equipment so I can provide for more animals without additional financial burden; I am grateful for FVC and this grant as a way to make my long term goals come true.

**- Ben Misko, Restless Roots
Central Pennsylvania**

Farming makes me feel enabled. I never would have imagined beekeeping but its been very therapeutic. Without the Hummerbee forklift, we wouldn't have been able to do our work with this year's late spring rains.

**- Alex Jauregui, Fury Bees
Woodland, California**

This will make a lasting impact on the health of the flock and relieve some of our personal financial investment as I retire from the Army in the next year.

**Anthony Barreras
Barreras Family Farm, Blair, NE**

We were just starting out and making wine in the back of a horse barn. We had no sales, no exposure. And we needed to bottle the vintage of wine – but we had no supply of bottles, corks, or labels. FVC stepped in and gave us a grant for the supplies. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't have...well, actually, I don't know what we would have done, honestly.

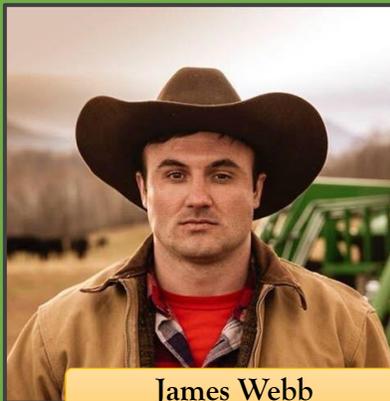
**- Ben Martin, Dauntless Wine Company
Forest Grove, Oregon**



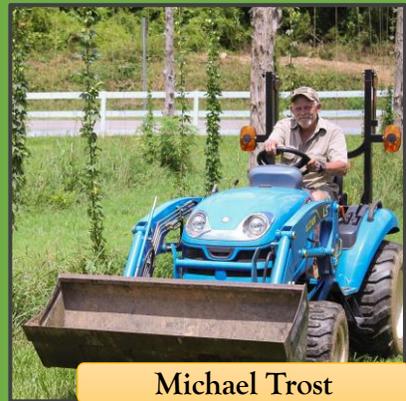
FOR VETERANS · FOR AGRICULTURE · FOR AMERICA



Ladonna & Heather



James Webb



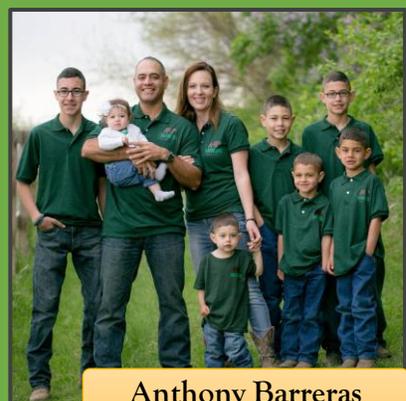
Michael Trost



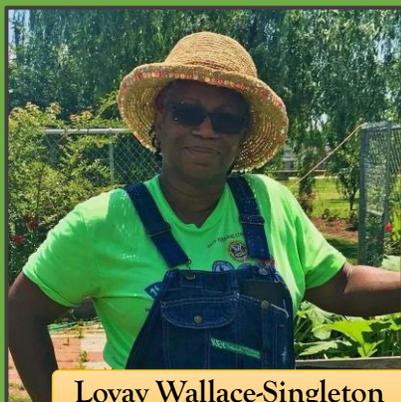
Ben Misko



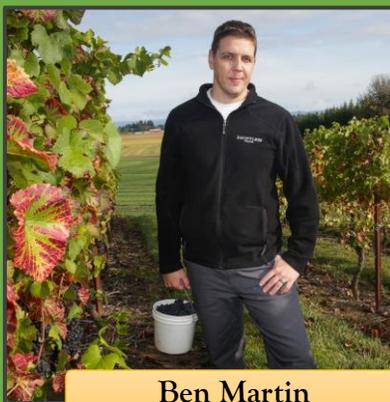
Marvin Frink



Anthony Barreras



Lovay Wallace-Singleton



Ben Martin



Alex Jauregui



These are the faces of stories we have told.

Members of Farmer Veteran Coalition who have Benefited from our Fellowship Fund small grant.

There are many more veterans deserving of assistance with their agricultural pursuits. Many more stories we still have to tell.