

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Veteran Training Program

USDA BFRDP Grant #: 2021-70033-35713



7/30/2023

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome and Introductions
- ▶ Meet Your Grant Team
- ▶ Program Evaluation
- ▶ Overview of Training Program
- ▶ Mission/Vision/Farming Goals
- ▶ Participant Expectations
- ▶ Stipend Review
- ▶ Adjourn



PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS

USDA 2021-70033-35713



PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS



- ▶ Share with us the following:
 - ▶ Name
 - ▶ Branch of Service
 - ▶ Program Expectations
 - ▶ Favorite Restaurant in Kansas City

GRANT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

MEET YOUR TEAM

- ▶ **University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC)**
 - ▶ Largest comprehensive, fully accredited university in the KC area
 - ▶ **Missouri Institute for Defense and Energy (MIDE)**
 - ▶ MIDE Mission: We improve quality of life by bridging academia with industry and community organizations to address wicked problems
 - ▶ MIDE Vision: To lead in the development of technologies that directly and positively impact society, and to grow the leaders of tomorrow in a team-focused culture
 - ▶ Focus on Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)

MEET YOUR TEAM



▶ University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC)

- ▶ Dr. Angie Cottrell (Program Director)
- ▶ JD Green (Agricultural Foreman)
- ▶ Dr. Juan Cabrera-Garcia (Horticulture)
- ▶ Dr. JJ Lee (Earth & Environmental Sciences)
- ▶ Dr. Jeff Hornsby (Entrepreneurship)
- ▶ Dr. Karin Chang (Evaluation)
- ▶ Caroline Matz (Evaluation)

MEET YOUR TEAM



- ▶ **Veterans Community Project (VCP)**
 - ▶ Founded in 2016 by combat Veterans and headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, VCP offers an innovative village of tiny houses and outreach assistance that provides inclusive services to aid at-risk and homeless Veterans
 - ▶ **Mission:** VCP is dedicated to supporting every man and woman who took the oath for our country. We are determined to make a difference in the lives of homeless Veterans, a task accomplished by the community for the community
 - ▶ Veteran Outreach Center
 - ▶ Veterans Navigation Campus
 - ▶ VCP Village
 - ▶ National Expansion

MEET YOUR TEAM

- ▶ **Veterans Community Project (VCP)**

- ▶ Chris Admire (Executive Director)

- ▶ Michele Orpin (Director of Development)

- ▶ Brett Myers (Director of Operations)



VETERANS
COMMUNITY PROJECT





PROGRAM EVALUATION

Dr. Karin Chang



USDA 2021-70033-35713

EVALUATION

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Survey at start, at end, and follow up
- ▶ Site Observations
- ▶ Storytelling



EVALUATION

- ▶ Human Participants Cover Letter
- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Last Four Digits of Phone Number = Survey ID

TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

USDA 2021-70033-35713

TRAINING PROGRAM

- ▶ JD Green is currently your primary contact for all questions!
- ▶ Trainings will be held both in-person and online
- ▶ Thursday evenings and Saturdays - calendar invites have been sent via email
- ▶ Online sessions will be presented via Zoom



TRAINING PROGRAM

- ▶ After completion of the initial training sessions, we will have continuing education sessions and quarterly update meetings to bring our group together
- ▶ Each participant will be scheduled to work the container farm - please work with JD directly to schedule your time and communicate any conflicts

MISSION/VISION/ FARMING GOALS

USDA 2021-70033-35713

SETTING THE FOUNDATION

- ▶ Every person will be treated with dignity and respect
- ▶ Personal and produce safety is our #1 priority
- ▶ Have fun and play!
- ▶ We don't know everything and there will be hiccups
- ▶ We encourage everyone to share their experiences and recommendations so we can make the program stronger

MISSION/VISION/FARMING GOALS

- Train 50 military veterans on urban agriculture processes
- Transition 50% of participants to an agriculture or farm-STEM employment or small business
- Develop a veteran, urban, organic, and sustainable program that can be replicated at future VCP locations

MISSION/VISION/ FARMING GOALS

- Farm Blueprint:
 - Dedicated container for mushrooms (20')
 - Dedicated container for basil (20')
 - Dedicated container for cleaning/harvesting/packaging (40')
 - Dedicated container for strawberries (20') – coming summer/fall 2023!
- ▶ Customers:
 - ▶ Ragazza
 - ▶ Enzo
 - ▶ Waldo Everyday Produce Market
 - ▶ And More to Come!





Social Media

Find us on Instagram or Facebook @ChowHallFarms

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a wooden stamp. The stamp is rectangular and has the word "CERTIFICATION" printed in bold, black, uppercase letters. The hand is positioned as if about to use the stamp. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a computer keyboard.

MISSION/VISION/FARMING GOALS

- ▶ After completion of the program, participants will receive the following professional certificates:
 - ▶ Produce Safety
 - ▶ Private Pesticide Applicator Training
 - ▶ Entrepreneurship

Participant Expectations

USDA 2021-70033-35713

Participant Expectations

1. Wear your Chow Hall Farms shirt while at the farm.
2. Treat everyone with respect and dignity.
3. Shifts will be scheduled and notice provided by JD.
4. If you cannot make a shift, you must email or text JD as soon as possible and provide rationale as to why you cannot attend. This rationale helps us code your absence. No calls, no shows moving forward may lead to immediate dismissal from the program.
5. Shifts missed will need to be made up either that same week or the week following and scheduled with JD. It is at JD's discretion if a shift is allowed to be missed and not made up based upon the workload at the farm each week.
6. Being on time for your shift is required.

STIPEND REVIEW

USDA 2021-70033-35713



STIPEND REVIEW & PAPERWORK

- ▶ Your time is valuable = compensation
- ▶ Each veteran participant will receive a \$4,000 stipend
- ▶ Quarterly payments will be sent the week of the following:
 - ▶ October 1
 - ▶ January 1
 - ▶ April 1
 - ▶ August 1
- ▶ **Continued participation is required for stipend payments**

Next Training - Hydroponics Overview

Thursday, July 13th 6-9 pm

Veterans Community Project - Community Center



Let's Tour the Farm!

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