



Armed to Farm—Connecting Veterans with Agricultural Careers

By Alyssa Couse, Agricultural Outreach Educator

When you think about Jefferson County, a few things are sure to come to mind—Fort Drum, farms, Thousand Islands, etc. As part of the Cornell Small Farms Program, the Northeast Beginning Farmers Project is working to connect these prominent features of the North Country. By providing resources, education, and hands-on experiences to military veterans, this program is designed to not only employ vets with agricultural jobs, but to allow them to use their skills, experience, and passions to create a fulfilling and enjoyable life after the military.

For veterans interested in agriculture, there are many online resources available on how to get started. Two such sites are:

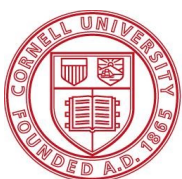
- **NYS Vets in Ag Listserv:** To join, send an email to NYVETSAG-L_request@cornell.edu.
- **Northeast Beginning Farmers Project** at <http://nebeginningfarmers.org>. This site has online worksheets, tutorials, videos, manuals/guides, and a plethora of FREE online courses on diverse agriculture topics.

In person informational workshops are being planned throughout the North Country in the hopes of fueling interests in agriculture. One key message to be relayed is that agriculture is a diverse industry and there are opportunities far beyond manning a pitchfork. From raising livestock for local meats, to vegetable/fruit stands, agricultural technology/IT, using drones for field mapping, diesel mechanics, therapeutic riding, etc., there is a place for everyone.

For more information, contact Alyssa Couse at 315-788-8450 or amc557@cornell.edu.



*Pictured here are
Armed to Farm
participants from an
August event in
Madison County, NY.*



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*Contact us for more information at 315-788-8450
or jefferson@cornell.edu.*

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