

**I am new to the area. As a military family we came from a rural, farming community and love the agricultural landscape. How do we learn more about agriculture here, our new home!**

Welcome to the North Country and thank you for your service! I hope you find a warm welcome and support as you venture into this new phase and new community. The North Country has a long history of agriculture. We appreciate and understand that many military families come from agricultural communities and want to re-engage in agricultural activities. Cornell Cooperative Extension Association wants to help. Here are some things you can do:

1. Check out our Local Food Guide at [www.ccejefferson.org](http://www.ccejefferson.org). Learn about local food in your neighborhood. Buy local produce at the many farm stands, farmers' markets, and small retail shops that specialize in local. Many farms sell CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) shares. In addition, you can buy cheese products, local meats, cider, and honey. Learn about local agriculture and your new community by visiting each farm.
2. If you are interested in learning more about agriculture and are thinking about a career in agriculture when you leave the military Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County is the place for you and veterans in the community! Learn about what Farm OPS can do for you. Farm OPS tailors' classes, workshops, farm tours, agribusiness tours, and work/internships with veteran farmers. These "mentors" will teach you about their agribusiness. If you want to try your hand in an agricultural enterprise but lack the land or facilities CCEJC has access to a Model Farm where you can practice your farming idea before you make it your livelihood. For more information call CCEJC at 315-788-8450.
3. Cornell Cooperative Extension also has much to offer children through their 4-H and camping programs. Do not let Covid restrictions limit your children's engagement and learning. Our camp and youth education programs are far-reaching and have something for everyone. Again, call 315-788-8450 or visit [www.ccejefferson.org](http://www.ccejefferson.org) to learn more.

By Cathy Moore, Farm Ops Program Manager

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