

New Beginning Veterans Farm fellowship program

1. **OBLIGATIONS OF University of Florida:** UF will provide supervision and oversight of fee-based Agricultural Training Program (the "Program") at Veteran's Farm, who enroll as participants in the Program. Instruction will include hands-on and certification training in the following areas: Agricultural Operations Management, Field and Post-Harvest Product Safety, Organic Certification, Field Production Practicum, and a Sustainable Floridians. Training will be provided by an UF graduate student or designated employee under the guidance of David Bearl. It is anticipated that 3 complete course rotations will occur during the year. The Program will include the following training:

1. **Agricultural Operations Management (30 hours)**

Content: Installation, operation and maintenance of physical facilities, equipment, and processes used in the production, storage, packaging and distribution of agricultural products. Students will be able to complete the installation procedures necessary to execute plans for facilities development, operate facilities and identify and correct commonly occurring malfunctions, maintain facilities and equipment used in field and in processing packaging, and distribution of agricultural products.

2. **Field and Post-Harvest Product Safety (30 hours)**

Content: Develop and implement plans and procedures to ensure the safety of food products. Students will be able to develop plans for HAACP and GAP certifications in field production and post-harvest storage, processing, packaging and distribution, implement, monitor, and maintain records to ensure that HAACP and GAP procedures and plans are followed.

3. **Organic Certification (30 hours)**

Content: Legal requirements for compliance with the U.S. National Organic Standards covering all agricultural products that are advertised or sold as organic. Students will be able to assist agricultural owner/operators in the development of Farm Plan for organic certification under the U.S. National Organic Standards, and maintain all records to ensure full compliance with the U.S. Organic Standards.

4. **Field Production Practicum** (on-going throughout the program; supervised by the instructor and David Bearl).

Content: Field experience in the operation of agricultural production facilities and systems. Students will be able to install and maintain agricultural production facilities, such as tunnel houses, irrigation systems, storage facilities, implement plans, procedures and practices needed to operate production facilities, such as green houses, high tunnel systems, and open field production.

5. **Sustainable Floridians** – This 12-hour seminar will be presented to the students that complete all 4 of the agricultural courses. Dr. Kathleen Ruppert will present this seminar rounding out the curriculum presented to the students.

Content: Energy usage and policies, land use polices and practices, food choices, growing selections, and policies, sustainable economic policies, water usage, and sustainability and community leadership practices.

6. **Competency based instruction** in the Tunnel House utilizing a Verti-Grow system, and other related growing systems, to complement and provide real-world experiences related to the content of classroom activities.
 - i. **UF** will maintain a competency record that reflects the hours and competencies achieved by participants.
 - ii. **UF** will provide certificates of completion to participants for the Agricultural Operations Management, Field and Post-Harvest Product Safety, Organic Certification, Field Production Practicum, and Sustainable Floridians upon successful completion of the seminars.
 - iii. **UF** will maintain a set of participant records at Veteran’s Farm.
 - iv. **UF** will maintain a permanent, duplicate set of participant records at the **UF-IFAS** campus in Hastings, Florida.
 - v. **UF** will provide a document summarizing the certificates earned and the competencies/hours achieved in the Program upon written request by the participant.
 - vi. **UF** will provide **SMA** with consultation on controlling/managing costs of the program at Veterans Farm.