Outline of the NYS OJT program for Veterans
-For On-Farm Training only-

Getting your Farm Approved as an OJT Program

- Cornell Small Farms Program will develop an enterprise specific training program with each individual farm (see attached sample outline).
- The training period must be between 6 months to 2 years in duration.
- An application is submitted, and a representative of The Division of Veterans Affairs will visit the farm and meet with the farmer briefly.
- Once approved as an OJT site, the job will be posted to find applicants.
- The farmer will select a veteran trainee, and both will sign a training agreement which includes the proposed training program and wage scale. (see OJT Training Agreement)

During the training period

- The farm pays a trainee’s normal wages, which must not be less than 50% of a trained positions’ rate. The rate must increase to at least 85% of the trained position’s rate for the last full month of training.
- During the training period, the veteran will receive a portion of their military housing allowance (MHA). During the training period, the veteran is given 100% of their housing allowance during the first six months, 80% during their second six months, 60% during the third six months, and 40% for the remaining 6 months.
- Once a month, during the training period, the farmer will submit a standardized report to the VA confirming the veteran is still receiving the approved training. This form should take no more than 5 minutes to fill out (see attached VA Form 22-6553).

At the completion of the training period

- If the training has been mutually beneficial, there should be a full-time position available to the veteran at the end of the training period.