

## TENTATIVE Agenda



# NY VETERANS in AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

November 29, 2017 | NYS Fairgrounds | Syracuse NY

- 8:30 AM** Registration, Refreshments, & Table Displays | [Martha Eddy Room](#)
- 9:00 AM** Welcome | Anu Rangarajan, Director of the Cornell Small Farms Program
- 9:10 AM** Keynote | Honorable Richard A. Ball, NYS Ag & Markets Commissioner
- 9:25 AM** Remarks | NY State Senator Patti Ritchie
- 9:40 AM** Session Kickoff | Dean Koyanagi, Farmer Veteran Program Associate
- 9:45 AM** Morning Educational Sessions  
Join one of the following tracks:
- **Livestock Health** | [Martha Eddy Room](#)
    - Animal Health Management/Biosecurity | NYS Ag & Mkts- Melanie Hemenway, DMV
  - **Building your Business** | [Wegman's Demo Kitchen](#)
    - Basic Accounting; Cost of Production | Julia Shanks
    - Bookkeeping Systems | Farm Credit East
  - **Supporting our Veteran Farmers** | [Bistro Room](#)
    - Resources and Networks
      - Jobs on the Farm | Fay Benson (DGA) and Farmer Veteran Kevin Miller
      - Hiring Veterans- Job postings and recruiting
    - Ft Drum and the Transition Assistance Program/Soldiers for Life | TBA, CCE Jefferson
- 12:00 PM** FVC Lunch & Networking | [Martha Eddy Room](#)
- Catered by veteran Cindy Seymour of Laci's Tapas Bar
- 12:40 pm** Launch of NY Farmer Veteran Coalition | [Martha Eddy Room](#)
- John Lemondes, NY FVC Board President
  - Michael O'Gorman, Executive Director of FVC
- 1:00 pm** Veteran Farmer Panel | [Martha Eddy Room](#)
- Organized by the New York Farmer Veteran Coalition – Panelists TBA

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### 2:00 PM Afternoon Educational Sessions

Join one of the following tracks facilitated by an Educator and Veteran Farmer:

- **High Tunnels | Martha Eddy Room**
  - Best Practices using High Tunnels | Judson Reid
- **Building your Business | Wegmans Demo Kitchen**
  - Cash Flow Planning | Julia Shanks
  - Creating Budgets and Plans | Farm Credit East
- **Veteran Service Organizations Roundtable Discussions | Bistro Room**
  - New Farmer Training Organizations
    - Small Farms Program
    - Heroic Foods
    - CCE Jefferson County
  - Veteran Support Organizations
    - EquiCenter
    - VA- Paul Daugherty

### 4:00 PM Closing Remarks | Martha Eddy Room

- Summary and Evaluations | Anu Rangarajan
- NY FVC Launch Party | John Lemondes

### 4:30 PM Reception Celebrating NY FVC Chapter Launch | Martha Eddy Room

- Food and beverage courtesy of NYS Farm Bureau

***Please remember to visit the info tables in the Martha Eddy Room from 8:30-9:00am and after 4:00pm.***

## Session Descriptions

*Morning (9:45am-12:00pm)*

### **Livestock Health | Martha Eddy Room**

Melanie Hemenway, DMV from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will introduce the state's livestock health programs and kick off a discussion about where to find resources to improve the health of your animals.

### **Building your Business | Wegman's Demo Kitchen**

[Julia Shanks](#), author of *The Farmer's Office* will discuss what farmers need to know to improve their accounting practices and understand managing costs of production. Representatives from Farm Credit East will discuss the various bookkeeping methods and how to better manage farm business records.

### **Supporting our Veteran Farmers | Bistro Room**

Service providers and veterans interested in supporting other veterans, are encouraged to participate in this group discussion. Starting the conversation off will be Fay Benson discussing the national Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program. Farmer veteran Kevin Miller will also share about his experience working on a farm. Additional topics of discussion include job boards, On the Job Training (OJT), farm education/training programs, and the transition assistance programs both in the military and on the civilian side.

*Afternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm)*

### **High Tunnels | Martha Eddy Room**

Judson Reid, Cornell's high tunnel expert, will discuss season extension techniques and why modifying the growing environment can be so valuable to small farms. We'll also briefly discuss the USDA high tunnel grant and why veterans should apply.

### **Building your Business | Wegmans Demo Kitchen**

Julia Shanks' second session will narrow in on creating a cash flow budget to better prepare for the seasonal ups and downs in expenses and income. Participants will join in a conversation about how to make adjustments to their plan when the numbers don't quite add up. Farm Credit East will help fine tune these plans and projections for better access to capital when growing a business.

### **Veteran Service Organizations Roundtable Discussions | Bistro Room**

Join one of two discussions during this session. One will highlight support for farmer veterans offered by traditional new-farmer training organizations, like universities and extension, as well as new veteran focused farming organizations. A second group will discuss veteran-focused entities and programs venturing into garden-based and farm training. Both will review where programs are in their development, ongoing struggles, and future opportunities that are emerging. A few partner organizations will kick off each conversation, and all participants are encouraged to actively engage in the discussion.