





PATRIOT GARDENS

**An agricultural initiative of the W.Va. National Guard
designed to align and mobilize strategic efforts
in order to provide new economic and employment
opportunities for West Virginia veterans**

Major General James Hoyer
Adjutant General
West Virginia National Guard



PATRIOT GARDENS

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Governor's Office

West Virginia National Guard (WVNG)

West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Appalachian Fruit Research Station (AFRS)

West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA)



PATRIOT GUARDENS

OTHER SUPPORTERS

USDA NRCS

Governors' Food & Farm Partnership

Shepherd University

West Virginia University

Marshall University

Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Refresh Appalachia

Greenbrier Valley EDC

Appalachian Headwaters



PATRIOT GUARDENS

MISSION

Patriot Gardens aligns landowners, operators, experts, resources and infrastructure to facilitate agricultural economic development opportunities for West Virginia and create employment opportunities for West Virginia veterans, members of the West Virginia National Guard and citizens.



PATRIOT GUARDENS

AGRICULTURE TRANSITION CENTERS

Patriot Gardens utilizes WVNG former armories, training facilities, and other Patriot Gardens partners' assets to create centers that will provide services to Veterans, Guardsmen, and West Virginians to assist them in entering into agriculture. Services include educational workshops, business advice, and assistance through shared supplies, equipment, and networking. WVSU Extension Services is providing educational support and agricultural oversight at locations exterior to the Coonskin Armory.



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AGRICULTURE TRANSITION CENTERS

Welch Pilot Program, McDowell County

-Hydro/Aquaponics, Educational Workshops, Cold Storage Unit(s), Specialty Crop Production, Technical Assistance

Huntington Armory, Cabell County

-Cold Storage, Technical Assistance
-After-School Program for Youth (currently being developed)

Millwood Armory, Jackson County

-NRCS Showcase/Education, Educational Workshops, Technical Assistance (currently being developed)

Coonskin, Kanawha County

-High Tunnel Production, Hydro/Aero/Aquaponics, Fruit Tree & Small Fruit Production, Educational Workshops, Technical Assistance



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AGRI-ENTREPRENEUR & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Patriot Gardens is working with veterans, Guards men/women and unemployed individuals who are interested in learning about entrepreneurial and business opportunities that are connected to the state's agriculture sector.

NEW -- Patriot Gardens recently received a grant (\$175,000) from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for the HARVEST Project (Heritage Agriculture & Rural Veterans Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Transition).



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ACHIEVEMENTS

- 17 hands-on workshops over the past year on topics ranging from small fruits to cultivated mushroom production with 7 on the schedule to begin February 8th
- Over 70 veterans and guard members have participated expressing interest in learning more about specific topics and developing future opportunities on their own land
- Two new farm based businesses by participants in development for production this growing season



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Patriot Gardens is:

- Completing details with the USDA-NRCS regarding funding stream to develop education component through partnerships with West Virginia State University Extension Service and Shepherd University
- Developing partners to provide access to land for program participants.
- Pursuing over 2 million in new funding toward enhanced education and outreach efforts as well as greenhouse construction
- Working with state business development agencies and commodity buyers to accelerate small business enterprises and encourage greater sales opportunities





QUESTIONS?

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**PATRIOT
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