



# Registered Agricultural Apprenticeships

*Veterans in Agriculture is an Iowa based non-profit whose mission is to empower veterans to thrive in agriculture.*

Veterans in Agriculture (VIA) assists military veterans to develop, grow, and succeed as Iowa's next generation of farmers and agribusiness leaders. VIA connects military veterans with resources and networks of information, programs, and organizations to help transition to agricultural careers. VIA identifies collaborations and resources between agribusiness, farming, education and military communities and promote opportunities for all military veterans in all sectors of Iowa's agricultural economy.

VIA has worked to provide individuals with unique training and learning opportunities for veterans to achieve their goals. VIA is sponsoring two registered agricultural apprenticeship programs, which have been approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

## WHAT IS A REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIP?

Registered agricultural apprenticeships are paid career pathways that merge hands-on learning with related curricula to provide real-life knowledge, skills, and experiences for established careers in agriculture. Apprenticeships receive educational instruction in a classroom setting as well as on-farm, ranch, and agribusiness training from experienced mentors. Registered agricultural apprenticeships are unique as they offer technical assistance related to financial management, whole farm and succession planning, and business plan development leading to successful agricultural careers.

## WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIP?



**Required Technical Instruction (RTI)**  
that includes curricula, mentorship, resources, and technical instruction



**On-the-Job Training (OJT)**  
that incorporates skill development, hands-on learning, and one-on-one mentorship

## Veterans in Agriculture is currently offering two registered agricultural apprenticeships:



**General Farmer**

- On farm or in agribusiness
- 3 years in length
- 432 contact hours of RTI
- 6000 hours of OJT (2000 hours/year)



**General Farmworker**

- On farm or in agribusiness
- 1 year in length
- 144 contact hours of RTI
- 2000 hours of OJT



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

### Apprentices

- Gain real-world experiences, skills, and knowledge in an agricultural or agribusiness setting
- Receive a certificate of completion
- Identify pathways to an advanced degree such as an Associates or Bachelors
- Receive technical assistance for ensuring a successful career
- Earn an hourly wage through on-the-job training
- Use the program to meet some eligibility requirements for beginning farmer/ rancher loans



### Veterans

- Utilize your earned GI Bill benefits\* toward tuition, housing, education materials, and supplies.
- Interested in what you may receive for benefits? Check out the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#)

*\*Benefits may vary based on number of deployments*

### Mentors | *Provide OJT*

- Recruit and train the next generation of farmers and agribusiness leaders
- Connect new farm and agribusiness individuals to workforce opportunities
- Hire and train employees for specific tasks related to farm and agribusiness needs
- Mentor potential farm managers to support in farm or agribusiness succession

### Education Providers | *Provide RTI*

- Support apprentices in achieving their career goals
- Provide education for the next generation of farmers and agribusiness leaders
- Enroll students in existing agriculture, business, and other related instructional courses

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN APPRENTICE, MENTOR, OR EDUCATION PROVIDER?

Apprentices and mentors may apply at any time to enroll in the program. To apply, please see the apprentice and mentor application: [bit.ly/VIAapprenticeship](http://bit.ly/VIAapprenticeship)

Education providers (educational institutions, non-profits, and additional organizations) will submit their curricula for review by the Veterans in Agriculture Training Committee to ensure that curricula meet the approved RTI standards within the apprenticeship.

For more information regarding RTI or general questions, please visit the VIA website or contact: **Beth Grabau, Executive Director of Veterans in Agriculture**  
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