



Registered Agricultural Apprenticeships

Employer & Mentor Applications

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 is sponsoring two registered agricultural apprenticeship programs, which have been approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, and is looking for interested farms and agribusinesses to apply to become an employer or mentor.

The Registered Agricultural Apprenticeship program is open to both military and Veteran participants, as well as civilians interested in agricultural careers.

Duties and Responsibilities of Participating Employers

- Have the necessary facilities to assure effective training for the assigned aspects of the occupation(s);
- Assure apprentices are under the supervision of qualified professionals;
- Exercise precaution for the health and safety of apprentices in the workplace at all times;
- Provide a positive learning environment and encourage learning at all levels;
- Provide fair and equitable treatment of all apprentices;
- Notify VIA of any changes in status of apprentices;
- Provide VIA with all necessary, and requested documentation concerning the apprentice.

Employers will also be responsible for selecting and hiring apprentices from the list of eligible candidates.

Employer Minimum Qualifications

- Applicant is a full-time farmer/rancher or full-time operation in the case of an agribusiness;
- Mentors maintain a culture, rhythm, and agricultural practice that provides a high quality of life for both people and animals;
- Mentors actively want to teach and to be a trainee's full-time employer, teacher, and life coach;
- Mentors have time and capacity to instruct a trainee and give them meaningful feedback, as well as have the capacity and ability to provide close supervision throughout the training program;
- The farm or ranch has a payroll system compliant with the withholding and other requirements of the IRS and applicable state taxation division.*

*Please note that the wages paid to VA apprentices will not be less than wages paid to trainees who are not eligible for VA benefits.

Fees Collected

- An apprenticeship application fee of \$250 that must be paid in full at time of submitting application;
- A reoccurring fee of \$100 per apprentice will be charged annually while said Employers has an active apprentice(s).

Fees collected will be used to off-set the administrative costs associated with the Registered Agricultural Apprenticeship program. VIA will serve as the intermediary and will be responsible for related apprentice tracking, reporting, and other administrative tasks as outlined by US Department Of Labor and the Veterans Administration for apprentices using earned GI Bill Benefits.

Scholarships for mentor farms and agribusinesses may be available to cover the cost of application fees for Veterans and active military personnel based on availability of funds. Scholarship funds can be used for those individuals with an Honorable Discharge as shown on the submitted DD214.

Application Process

Interested employers must file an application with Veterans In Agriculture, which will include an application fee of \$250. The application will consist of the following:

- Description of your farm or agribusiness, including the type of operation and skills that will be taught;
- Description of how this program will help your business;
- List of skills the employer is seeking;
- List of personality traits such as self-starter, self-motivated, calm, etc.;
- Position description of the apprentice the employer is seeking.

Interested employers are asked to submit a paper copy of their application, including application fees to Veterans In Agriculture. Fees can be paid online at bit.ly/VIAapprenticeship or by check. Make checks payable to Veterans In Agriculture.

Application documents can be submitted through mail or email to the following:

Mailing Address:

Veterans in Agriculture
10861 Douglas Ave.
Urbandale, IA 50322

Email:

Beth Grabau
beth@veteransinagriculture.org

For more information or questions please visit the VIA website or contact:

Beth Grabau, Executive Director of Veterans in Agriculture

beth@veteransinagriculture.org | 855.951.0108

