



Everett, PA, 16 August 2019--**Black Valley Kune Kune Farm** in Everett, PA, will host "**Veterans in the Valley**" on Sunday, September 29, 2019, from 11 am to 3 pm. The celebration of veteran agriculture in Pennsylvania will feature a farm open house, local food, an artisan farm market, music, a petting zoo, and fun for the whole family.

Black Valley Kune Kune Farm is home to a Veterans Administration (VA) On-the-job Apprenticeship. Proprietor Alana Foor is mentor farmer to Joe Capricci, US Army Reserves. VA OJT on-farm apprenticeship educational plans are approved by the PA Department of Education for veterans eligible for VA Education benefits. The PA Veteran Farming Project facilitates connections for VA on-farm OJT through the **Troops to Tractors** program.

Eligible veterans may use their benefits to attend college, university, or vocational school; Troop to Tractors apprenticeships provide an alternate path to learning the business and craft of farming, accelerating the pathway to owning or operating an agribusiness. During Joe's tenure at Black Valley he is learning skills in animal care, genetics and breeding, livestock and farm management, and marketing, under the tutelage of his mentor.

Farm vendor applications for the Artisan Market at Veterans in the Valley are being accepted now. There is a nominal fee for civilian farms; vendor space for military/veteran farmers available at no cost. Vendors currently scheduled for the event include [(V) denotes veteran-owned]:

Black Valley Provender (Veteran apprentice)

Restless Roots Farm (V)

The Two Nickels Farm

Front Yard Funny Farm

Forever Heart Farm, LLC. (V)

EJ Market Gardens LLC (V)

ZEST Kitchen & Pantry (V)

The Skirted Soldier (V)

Blue Dog Farms (V)

TKTurnings

Denise Wright

Angie Gates Goat Milk Soap and Lotion (V)

Mike Koontz Concessions

Sponsorships are being accepted at <https://www.blackvalleyfarm.com/veterans-in-the-valley>

Sponsors include idGraphics, LLC, Black Valley Farm, and DAV Chapter 8 (Pittsburgh).

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Learn more about the PA Veteran Farming Project at troopstottractors.org