Farmer Veteran Coalition of Iowa First Annual Conference

Saturday, December 14, 2013
8 am – 5:30 pm with Reception 5:30 – 7:30
401 NE 66th Ave, Des Moines, IA 50313

Free and open to the public, but space is limited. Registration is required at http://IowaFarmerVeteran.org.

**Agenda**

8:00 – 10:00  Registration

9:00 – 10:00  “Ask the Experts” one-on-one Q&A with agriculture and veteran service providers.

10:00 – 10:45  Opening Remarks – Ed Cox, FVC IA & Staff Attorney, Drake Agricultural Law Center

Governor’s Proclamation of Farmer Veteran Day – Colonel Robert King (Ret), Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

Welcome to Easter Seals - Sherri Nielsen, President/CEO of Easter Seals

Introduction to FVC IA - Lyle Stewart, FVC IA and Stewart’s Tax Service

Welcome from a Farmer Veteran - Michael Simester,* Farmer and Veteran

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:00  Using Veteran and Agriculture Programs

**Moderator:** John Whitaker, Director, Iowa Farm Service Agency

Brian Gossling, Chief Specialist, Iowa FSA Farm Loans Programs

Scott Silvay, VR&E Employment Coordinator, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Steve Ferguson, FVC IA and IFA Iowa Agricultural Development Division

Tracy Keninger, Director of Easter Seals Rural Solutions

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch featuring Iowa farm products

Keynote Speaker: Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey

1:00 – 1:10  Break

1:10 – 2:00  Workshop and Q&A Session 1

**Breakout A:** Staying Ahead of Legal & Tax Questions

**Moderator:** Lyle Stewart, FVC IA and Owner, Stewart’s Tax Service

John Baker, FVC IA and Staff Attorney, ISU Beginning Farmer Center

Poppy Davis, Former USDA National Program Leader for Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

**Breakout B:** Planning Your Education for a Career in Agriculture

**Moderator:** Prof. Neil Hamilton, Director, Drake Agricultural Law Center

Jathan A. Chicoine, Veterans Representative, Iowa State University

Craig McEnany, Agri-Business Chair, Des Moines Area Community College
2:00 – 2:10 Break
2:10 – 3:00 Workshop and Q&A Session 2
   Breakout A: Land Access and Talking to Landowners
       Moderator: Dave Baker, FVC IA and Farm Transition Specialist, ISU
                   Beginning Farmer Center
               Mark Gannon, Owner, Gannon Realty and U.S. Farm Lease
               Jamie Ridgely, Vice-President of Planning & Projects, Agren Inc.
               Dr. Mark Rasmussen, Director, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at
                   ISU
   Breakout B: Resumes and Translating Military Experience to Agricultural Careers
       Moderator: Capt. Abby Cline, FVC IA, Dairy Farmer, & Iowa Air National
                   Guard
               Linda Rouse, Operations Director, Iowa Workforce Development
               Brig. Gen. Jodi Tymeson (Ret.), CEO of Iowa Veteran’s Home
3:00 – 3:10 Break
3:10 – 4:00 Workshop and Q&A Session 3
   Breakout A: Business Development and Talking to Lenders
       Moderator: Mike Bobst, FVC IA and Vice-President, First State Bank of Stuart
                   Master Sergeant Paul Havran, Farmer and Iowa Air National Guard
                   Chet Bennetts, Principal Financial
                   Andy Larson, ISU Extension and Outreach Small Farm Sustainability
   Breakout B: Ag Jobs in High Demand in the Next Decade
       Moderator: Steve Ferguson, Iowa Finance Authority – Agriculture Division
                   Erika Osmundson, Director of Marketing Communications, AgCareers.com
                   Nathan Katzer, Farm Bus. Development Manager, IA Farm Bureau Federation
4:00 – 4:10 Break
4:10 – 5:00 Marketing Opportunities & Contracts
       Moderator: Matt Russell, State Food Policy Coordinator, Drake Ag Law Center
                   Paul Willis, Founder, Niman Ranch Pork Co.
                   Michael O’Gorman, Executive Director, Farmer Veteran Coalition
5:00 – 5:30 Closing Remarks: Policy Opportunities and Preview of FVC IA in 2014
       Neil Hamilton, Director, Drake Agricultural Law Center
       John Baker, FVC IA and ISU Beginning Farmer Center
5:30 – 7:30 Reception Featuring Iowa Farm Products and Networking and Socializing