



## Today and All Days, We Thank #OurFarmers

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of America.

They grow food to feed us, fiber to clothe us, and fuel to run our homes and cars. In doing so, they also provide economic stability across the nation – stability that supports rural economies and creates much-needed jobs in local communities. No matter who we are, where we live, or what we do, we all have daily reason to celebrate and thank #ourfarmers.

In recognition of National Ag Week, we want to highlight just a few of the farmers we've had the honor to work with. These farmers – #ourfarmers – dedicate their lives to providing for us all.

### Jon Jackson

[Meet Jon Jackson.](#) Jon, a former Army Ranger, now works to help other veterans and beginning farmers in his community in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Jon grows produce and raises Royal Jabali, a hog breed unique to Georgia. He's also worked with USDA to create Comfort Farms, the nation's first Acute Veterans Crisis Agriculture Center and "a healing farm for veterans."

With a focus on soil health, improving available forage, and water access and use, Jon is creating a balanced operation that offers balance for others. Within the first 11 months, Comfort Farms helped provide crisis services for 20 veterans and helped educate over 500 veterans about running a farm and agribusiness. Through Jon's leadership, the facility assists with business planning, marketing, accounting, food safety, labeling, and meeting customer packaging specifications.

Jon served our country, and he now furthers a post-military mission of service through agriculture.

Today and every day, we thank you Jon!



## Jen Aron

[Meet Jen Aron.](#) Jen grows more than food at Blue Raven Farm in Corbett, Oregon – she also grows microbes.

Jen’s operation covers five acres, where she works with a team to grow produce for a 40-person CSA and roughly a dozen restaurants.

As a farmer, Jen’s focus is on keeping her soil healthy and productive. She adds composts, plants cover crops, and strives to support the millions of microbes helping her healthy soil grow healthy food.

Jen is one of many farmers across the country working to feed community members while building soil health.

Today and every day, we thank you Jen!

## Chris Eckert

[Meet Chris Eckert.](#) The president of Eckert’s Inc., a family farm in southern Illinois, Chris manages an operation that has been in his family for seven generations.

Through Chris’ leadership, the Eckert family farms 600 acres of fruit and vegetable crops. They also run a 400-seat restaurant and a specialty food store that features produce from their operation and neighboring farms.

Chris is dedicated to managing risk for his family business. He has worked with USDA’s [Risk Management Agency](#) to secure crop insurance for his operation, a move he says “literally changed [the] whole business” in 2014, when temperatures dropped to -15 degrees Fahrenheit and peaches were lost to freeze.

Chris is one of many farmers across the country providing for his family – and feeding his community – through a multi-generational family farm.

Today and every day, we thank you Chris!



## **Margarita Munoz**

[Meet Margarita Munoz.](#) Margarita owns and runs an 800-acre cattle operation in Perkins, Oklahoma, where she also grows wheat and millet.

Margarita has raised a family, worked non-farming jobs full-time, and built a thriving cattle business. Her parents were farmers, and she has spent her lifetime working to grow her own operation.

Margarita partners with USDA to boost productivity of her working land and conserve valuable natural resources. She has worked with the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) to transition cropland into healthy pastures, control erosion across her operation, and improve local water quality.

Margarita is one of many farmers across the country working to raise our food in a way that's both sustainable and economical.

Today and every day, we thank you Margarita!

## **#OurFarmers, Our Commitment**

Thank you, farmers! Thank you for feeding us, thank you for clothing us, thank you for providing the fuel that drives our country.

At USDA, our commitment is to support those who support us all. We appreciate you and would love to work with you to strengthen your operation.

Visit your [local service center](#) for one-on-one support with USDA programs and services, or learn more at [farmers.gov](#).

This week and every week, we celebrate #ourfarmers.

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