



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wolf Administration Tours Veteran-Owned Farms Supported by State's \$10 Million Fresh Food Financing Initiative

York, PA – Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding and Anthony J. Carrelli, Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, toured U.S. Navy Veteran James Cornwell's Nine Pines Farm in York, and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Daniel Hubbard's Hubbard Family Ranch in Gardners, Adams County on Friday, November 6, to highlight state support of veterans and engender consumer support for veteran-owned farms. Both farms received grants in September through the state's \$10 million [Fresh Food Financing Initiative COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) to expand access to fresh food in low-income communities during the pandemic.

"These men and their families have served their country well," Redding said. "And they continue to serve their neighbors who struggle to access fresh, nutritious food. For both, these veteran-farmers deserve our thanks today, as we approach Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, and every single day of the year. They are truly heroes."

"These proud veterans and their families sacrificed much to protect our freedoms while in uniform and now are working just as hard as farm families feeding our nation," said Carrelli. "We thank the departments of Agriculture and Community and Economic Development, who looked deep into our communities and selected these two deserving veteran-owned businesses for the grants. These great veteran farm families are now better equipped to increase food production so that Pennsylvanians have more reliable access to food despite the disruptions of COVID-19."

Nine Pines Farm received a \$90,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development's Fresh Food Financing Initiative to expand its poultry operation and make more fresh turkey and chicken available to consumers, particularly in nearby low-income areas.

"With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now more apparent than ever, the need for strong, local food producers in and around areas where food security is a daily struggle," Cornwell said in his grant application. "We will be using funds to assist in accommodating the room needed to raise and store more chicken so that it can be brought to market, specifically to those in need in our nearby food desert."

The Hubbard Family Ranch received \$15,000 through the initiative to support their poultry and non-GMO feed operation.

The tour was hosted by [PA Veteran Farming Project](#), which connects military veterans to programs and resources, including those available through the state. One example is the [PA Preferred® Homegrown by Heroes](#) program, which helps consumers easily identify and

purchase products made and grown by Pennsylvania veterans.

The PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs connects veterans to resources through the [Pennsylvania Veterans Registry](#), an online application that allows veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to connect with DMVA to request information related to the valuable state benefits, programs and services offered.

For information as it relates to agriculture during COVID-19 mitigation in Pennsylvania visit agriculture.pa.gov/COVID. For the most accurate, timely information related to Health in Pennsylvania, visit on.pa.gov/coronavirus.

MEDIA CONTACT: Shannon Powers – shpowers@pa.gov

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