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Farmer Veteran Coalition – Arkansas Chapter and Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes Host Veterans Day Celebration

Little Rock, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture and Farmer Veteran Coalition – Arkansas Chapter hosted the Veterans Day Celebration, Wednesday, November 11, at Windy Hill Farms in Searcy. The event offered an opportunity for Farmer Veteran Coalition – Arkansas Chapter and Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes members, other farmer-veterans, and program partners to network and share information.

The Veterans Day Celebration was the first official meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) which was established in May 2020 with 410 current members. The Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) is a non-profit organization that helps veterans pursue careers in agriculture and serves a network of over 20,000 veteran members nationwide. FVC works with the agricultural community, partners, and sponsors to support those who served our country once by defending it, and now serve a second time as farmers feeding it.

During the event, official Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes personalized signs were presented by Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward to new members, Jumpmaster Ranch LLC in Independence County and Queen Bee Apiary in Greene County. Homegrown By Heroes scholarships recipients, Taylor Brandt and Gavin Sparks, also were recognized.

Homegrown By Heroes is a national branding program administered by the Farmer Veteran Coalition that enables farmer veterans to market their local agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture, with support from Farm Credit, launched the Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes program in 2015. More information about the Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes program and scholarships can be found agriculture.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/HBH-Scholarship-winners.pdf.

“When consumers see an Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes sign or logo, they know the food they are purchasing was grown in Arkansas by an Arkansas veteran,” said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “The Arkansas Department of Agriculture appreciates Farm Credit’s support of this important program, and we are proud to honor all of the Arkansas farmer-veterans.”

To join the Farmer Veteran Coalition – Arkansas Chapter and Arkansas Grown Homegrown By Heroes programs, farmers must be a veteran or currently serving as an active duty, National Guard or Reserve member of the United States Armed Forces. Learn more by contacting Arkansas Homegrown By Heroes Program Manager Karen Reynolds at 501-529-1630 or visit arkansasgrown.org/homegrown-by-heroes/.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov.