



## Putting Unemployed Veterans on Northeast Dairy Farms – A Pilot Project

The Agri-Mark farm families who own Cabot and McCadam cheese want to do their part for America's unemployed and homeless veterans. They need folks to help them on their family farms and are offering jobs doing work that offers meaning and purpose. Seven Agri-Mark farms have stepped up to train, pay and house veterans willing to work hard. Farmers know the powerful impact of working closely with family and animals and growing your own food. Veterans employed through this program have an opportunity for meaningful work that the farmers hope makes a difference in their lives. A description of the pilot farms is attached.

Collaborating with affiliated veteran and government groups, the **American Legion** will interview and qualify interested veterans identified through northeast community groups. No experience is necessary and all skills can be put to use on a farm, including: animal care, carpentry, driving, welding, managerial and marketing. This goal of the program is to provide training, prepare a future generation of farmers and will address the housing and transportation needs of participating Veterans.

The VA will qualify these veterans as being eligible for services and a series of interviews will take place by phone in February 2015 among the farmers and the veterans. Seven veterans will be offered jobs for either six month or 12 month commitment. Veterans will be in place on farms by March.

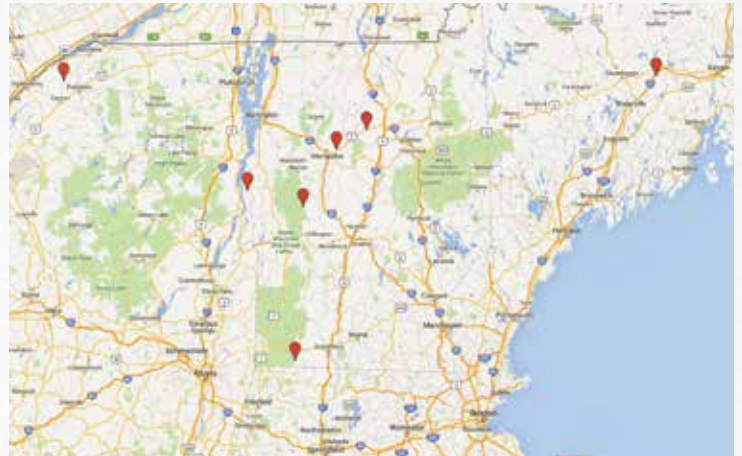
Cabot Creamery will be documenting the pilot. All successes, failures and future opportunities will be noted. If the feasibility of this program is proven, Cabot Creamery and the American Legion will develop a web-based portal that will allow farmers anywhere in the US to post their jobs and veterans anywhere to apply and or post their willingness to work based on job assignment, geography or farm type preference.

During the test period, groups, associations and government agencies identified during the formative period of this pilot project will be kept up to date on the program status.

If you know of Veterans who may be interested, contact:

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