



**A PAUSE IN THE FIELDS:
SUPPORTING VETERANS TO FARMERS IN A TIME OF TRANSITION**



Harvesting lavender at Chatfield Farms.

In the picturesque Yampa Valley of Colorado, Taylor Drew's journey from military service to farming shows the transformative power of Veterans to Farmers (VTF). After participating in VTF's 2017 program, Drew co-founded Forever West Farms and remains a shining example of how Veterans, equipped with the knowledge and skills gained through VTF, are helping to shape sustainable agricultural futures.

VTF's impact has been undeniable: thousands of pounds of food grown, communities strengthened, and more than 220 Veterans trained in the art of sustainable farming. **But now, facing unprecedented challenges, VTF is at a crossroads, temporarily suspending its classes for the 2025 growing season.**



**TAYLOR DREW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
VETERANS TO FARMERS**

In a February 25 announcement, VTF Founder Richard Murphy explained, **"The costs associated with maintaining our operations over the past decade have proven to be quite challenging. However, our success can be attributed to the untiring dedication of our team."**



Despite this break in educational offerings, VTF is not closing its doors for good. The heart of VTF—the methodology they have developed and the profound healing it provides—remains unchanged. Agriculture is not just a career; it's a therapeutic practice for Veterans dealing with PTSD, TBI, and other physical and mental health challenges. For many, it's a second chance at purpose and camaraderie, helping them reintegrate into civilian life and forge new paths toward healing.

Veterans like Drew embody this spirit of service, not only by growing food but by mentoring and leading others. As a member of the VTF board since 2019, Drew's personal commitment has helped VTF extend its reach to support Veterans nationwide. But this success comes at a cost, and without continued funding, VTF faces a difficult road ahead. **This is where you come in.**



Program participants working in the field.



VTF trains Veterans in agricultural systems, technologies, and business operations for a fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle.



As a non-profit, the organization has long depended on the generosity of its supporters to provide life-changing opportunities for Veterans.

The future of Veterans to Farmers depends on the financial support of individuals and organizations who understand the immense value of its mission. **They need your help now more than ever. Your donation will ensure that VTF can continue to provide Veterans with the resources, training, and community they need to succeed in farming and beyond.** While they are on this brief hiatus, the costs to sustain their programs, explore new opportunities, and prepare for a return to full capacity remain critical.

By contributing, you're not only supporting a program—you're investing in the future of Veterans. With your help, VTF can continue to empower the Veteran community, enabling them to heal, grow, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system.

Make a Difference Today. Please visit veteranstofarmers.org to donate and help keep the Veterans to Farmers' mission alive. We are deeply grateful for your support and look forward to their return to the fields soon.

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