



Garlic North—The Northern Farm is a part of a multi-generational family owned farm in Northeastern CT. The farm has been utilized for many purposes since 1922 to include: sustainable, naturally grown, crops, hay, and beef cattle.



The Southern Farm is a 115 acre farm with 40 acres in hay, about 60 acres of mixed mature woods, the farm house, barns and outbuildings



2015 Happenings

Purchased Farm- Garlic South, Negotiated Lease— Garlic North

Dave attended EBV— UCONN— Established LLC, Divisions created— Garlic, Leatherworking, DJ/KJ, Non Profit in process— Veteran Sustainable Living

Planted “test beds” of Garlic— North and South

2016 The Year Ahead

Apply to Work Vessels For Vets for Tractor

Attend: EBV National Convention, Sustainable Farms Conferences

Plant LOTs of Garlic!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Samson’s Strength Farms and Veteran Ventures

(860) 861-6747

South

5737 Cragford Road

Lineville, AL 36266

North

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Hampton, CT 06247

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SAMSON’S STRENGTH FARMS AND VETERAN VENTURES NEWS

Quality Products, Services, and Ventures for Warriors and their Community

Samson’s Strength Newsletter

January 2016

Introducing the SSFVV Crew

Dave Flounders - Owner

Dave entered the military after two years of pre-med at UPJ. His first assignment was to the USS Missouri BB-63 recommissioning crew in 1984 as a Machinist Mate (MM), and his first overseas tour was in Operation Earnest Will. After 4 years he transferred to the USS Fulton AS-11. His final Navy assignment was to the NLON Subbase to repair subs at the R-9 Outside Machine shop, where he left the Navy as an MM1(SW). Dave joined the Connecticut Army National Guard in 1995 as a 68B30 Turbine Engine Tech, working full time as Excepted Service at the 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) in Groton, CT. In 2003 he took his commission as a Transportation Officer with the 1048th Medium Truck Company and deployed with them to OIF in 2006-07. He returned to the 1109th AVCRAD as the Rear Detachment Executive Officer from Jan 2008 – Jun 2009, volunteering while they deployed overseas. During his stint at the 1109th, he watched it change names from the AVCRAD to the Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG). During OEF 2010-2011, Dave deployed with the Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit (ADMRU) as the Environmental Officer and W2Q Aviation Theater Warehouse as the Accountable Officer. During the year in theater, his warehouse saw a total thru put of over 3.7 billion dollars of material, including 600 million dollars of retrograde (reclamation items for repair and return to supply system). After just 9 short months home, he again deployed to OND 2012-2013, with his home unit of the 1109th TASMG. This time he closed down the warehouse, was again the Environmental Officer, as well as taking his turn as Commander of the Headquarters Company. Upon his return home he was transferred to the Wounded Warrior Transition Unit, where he underwent shoulder surgeries on both shoulders and completed his VA claims, and was Medically retired in December of 2014 due to PTSD. After a rough year he engaged with the Entrepreneur Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV), purchased a farm with Ken and Kathleen, and is currently on his way to making a difference in the lives of other Veterans.



Dave—Owner Samson’s Strength Farms and Veterans Ventures

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Ken—Farm Manager— North and South

Ken Burkhardt has been working in the field of personal business ownership since 1952 when he began his journey in the family business. It was during those early years where he gained his knowledge of equipment- driving, maintenance and repair. In 1959 Ken ventured out on his own to start a fruit and produce wholesale and retail business. He sold the business in 1973 and went on to work for the next 15 years at a wholesale grocer as the supervisor of quality control - receiving/shipping. He moved down south - planning to retire but got bored so he again started his own business in property management- lawn maintenance- commercial and residential, site maintenance - commercial and residential to include: plumbing, electrical, you name it Ken fixed it! Ken brings a wide range of hands on knowledge to the team - business ownership, produce production and management, facilities/equipment maintenance and repair as well as what we at Samson's Strength Farms and Veteran Ventures call TRUE GRIT!



**Jesse— Caretaker—
SSFV—SOUTH**

Jesse Sweeney is a former combat medic and disabled veteran of OEF. He was the frontline healthcare provider for over 20 soldiers while deployed and conducted over 140 missions mounted, dismounted, and air assault.

Stateside he worked in Recruiting and Retention for the CTARNG processing enlistment documents, managing training system, preparing briefs, inventorying equipment, and running social media platforms.

Since his return from Afghanistan in 2010, Jesse has strategized of building a sustainable farm for returning veterans like himself - a place for like minded warriors to work together and support each other. It was through this dream he met Dave, Kathleen and Ken - putting their ideas and strengths together to develop the model for Samson's Strength Sustainable Farm and Veteran Ventures.



Kathleen— Case Manager (and Jaguar)

Kathleen began her career in community mental health in 1991 when she volunteered as an on call crisis counselor at a domestic violence sexual assault center. She went on to complete her associates degree in legal assistance and criminal justice, bachelors degree in criminology and psychology and finally a masters in community mental health. Throughout the years while seeking her degrees and since Kathleen has served her community in both nonprofit and governmental agencies providing counseling and case management to a wide variety of populations and age groups. Since 2009 she has served her local and national community through her work with military members, veterans and their families. She has extensive background in the field of trauma recovery as well as utilizing new innovative healing strategies.

Helen Merasco— Grant Writer

Helen has worked in the field of human services since 1996. From 1996-2003 she worked as a paraprofessional for a non-profit educational service center, EASTCONN, located in North Eastern, CT. EASTCONN provides services for students with disabilities. In her extra efforts during this time she assisted a grant writing team to prepare, and compose several grant applications. During this time she was a nationally certified G.E.D Instructor helping students obtain their G.E.D and providing students with life skills support, job searching, and resume writing skills. From 2003-2010 Helen shifted her area of work within EASTCONN, to the Transportation Department, continuing her service supporting students with disabilities. In 2010 she took an employment opportunity as a Consumer Counselor with another non-profit organization in Northeast Connecticut, Tri-County Arc. She worked in several positions within this company providing direct care, job coaching, and life-skills coach to adults with disabilities. Helen is currently working for EASTCONN as a student transportation coordinator and driver.



Our Mission: The Team at Samson's Strength Farms and Veteran Ventures, LLC has a passion for supporting our Warriors and the community. Our Team brings a unique understanding of the military population both personally and professionally. Together the Team strives to engage recently returning or discharged Warriors with reintegration back into the community. The strong case management plan is designed to provide structure in a real world setting, to include connecting them with services and resources within the community and providing a day-to-day healthy living plan for future continued success. Utilizing the Farm and the Veteran Ventures to actively engage the Warriors, the Team will enhance skill building through hands-on involvement in day to day workings of the sustainable farm, garlic production/ marketing sales, as well as the other divisions – leatherworking, sawmill, Disc Jockey and Karaoke Jockey performances, equipment maintenance, property management, animal husbandry, and conservation practices.