



**Hello Linda,**

## **Farmer Veteran Coalition releases first episode with Vets in Ag Podcast**

Farmer Veteran Coalition has partnered with **AGD Consulting** to host two series of podcasts, each with three episodes. On the Vets in Ag podcast, hosted by **Michael DeSa**, we explore the stories and insights from the military veteran and supporter communities who are leading the way for vets in agribusiness, agtech, and agri-preneurship. We swap stories, talk ag, and show how the grass-roots nature of the ag community can be a natural fit for the military veteran.

This is the first episode in a three-part series which showcases partnerships between FVC and organizations offering programs in agriculture tailored for military veterans. We will interview stakeholders within the organization as well as a military veteran who participated in its programs.

Our first episode features **Curtis Mahnken**, an Extension Economist with the Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) at the University of Minnesota and Eric Zirbes, a Marine Corps veteran, 5th generation farmer, and owner/operator at Zirbes Family Farms in Melrose, Minnesota. In this episode, we cover everything from transitioning farm records from pen and paper to digital to how to find niche markets for products based on market trends and your own personal passions.

To listen to the podcast, click here: <https://rb.gy/mfxnwp>

# Vets In Ag Podcast

HOSTED BY  
MIKE DESA (USMC)

Sponsored by



FARMER VETERAN  
COALITION

EPISODE 45  
ERIC ZIRBES  
(USMC)  
ZIRBES FAMILY FARMS

CURTIS MAHNKEN  
CENTER FOR FARM  
FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT

For more information about the Center for Farm Financial Management's Virtual Business Management Program, contact Curtis Mahnken at [cmahnken@umn.edu](mailto:cmahnken@umn.edu) or visit <https://z.umn.edu/VFBM-Interest>. The pilot program is available virtually to qualified veterans and members of Farmer Veteran Coalition for only \$100.

Eric Zirbes and the Zirbes Family Farms beef can be found on **Facebook** or online at **[www.ez5angusbeef.com](http://www.ez5angusbeef.com)**.

**AGD Consulting** is a veteran-owned, strategic advisory firm servicing the global agricultural technology, food and investments sectors. Services include independent due diligence, technical analysis, market access, business and product development, and strategic partnerships. AGD is also a partner firm in a multi-disciplinary platform company called **AgSensor Solutions**. With decades of experience, AgSensor Solutions is able to facilitate sensor development and commercialization in the ag and animal tech sectors.

Best regards,

**Diego Lored**

*Digital Marketing and Outreach Specialist*

Farmer Veteran Coalition

**[diego@farmvetco.org](mailto:diego@farmvetco.org)**

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Farmer Veteran Coalition | PO Box 660675 PMB 94776, Dallas, TX 75266

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