



Improving the Health of Farmer Military Veterans

AgriSafe Network conducted a virtual Think Tank on the role that rural healthcare providers could play in the improvement of the health of farmer military veterans.

The presentation was marked by polling questions that gauged the attendees opinions and perspectives on the needs and health disparities of farmer military veterans.

These results and other resources can be found on the AgriSafe website.

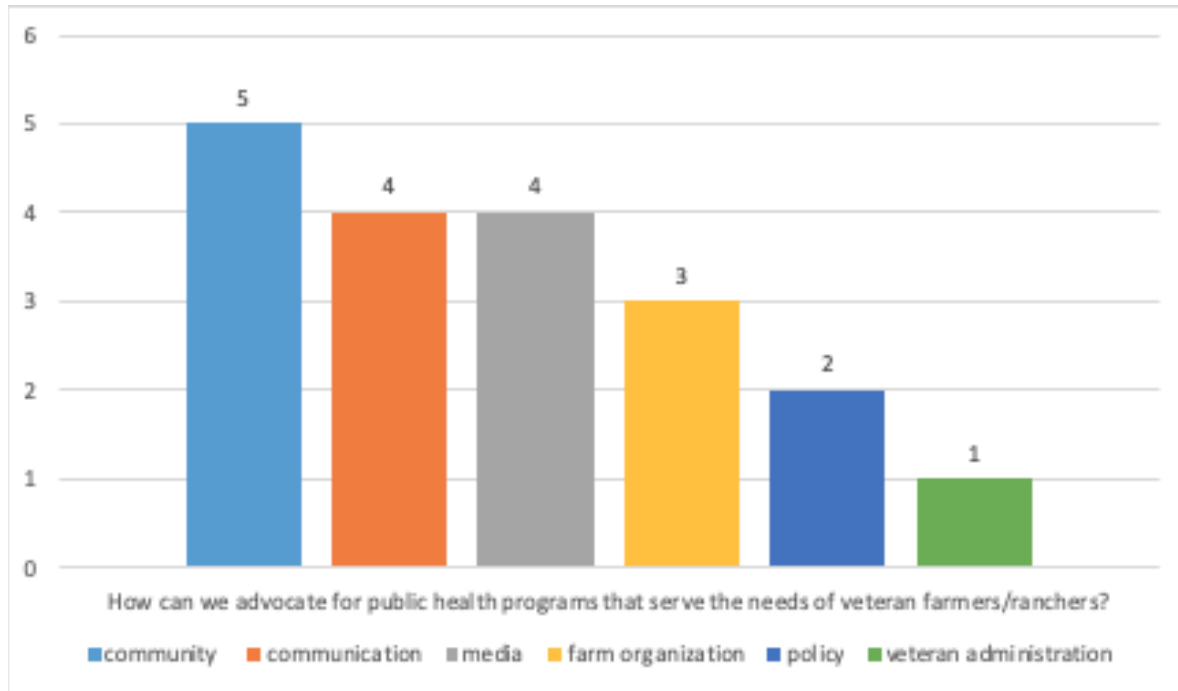
May 29, 2019 Virtual Think Tank Results

What words come to mind when you think about the mental health of Veteran farmers/ranchers?



1. How can we advocate for public health programs that serve the needs of veteran farmers/ranchers?

26.32% participants think we can advocate for public health programs that serve



Explanation:

"Community" include:

- Agrisafe could get involved with Local Community Health Improvement Plan Work
- Community networking
- Community service organizations
- Community service orgs/local health providers state/local representatives

"Veterans Administration" include:

- Ask the Veteran Administration to set up a separate group or program for them

"Policy" include:

- Legislators
- Make politicians aware of the issues

"Communication" include:

- Awareness
- Educate providers and the community
- In partnership with local health departments
- Talking with vets- getting their stories

"Media" include:

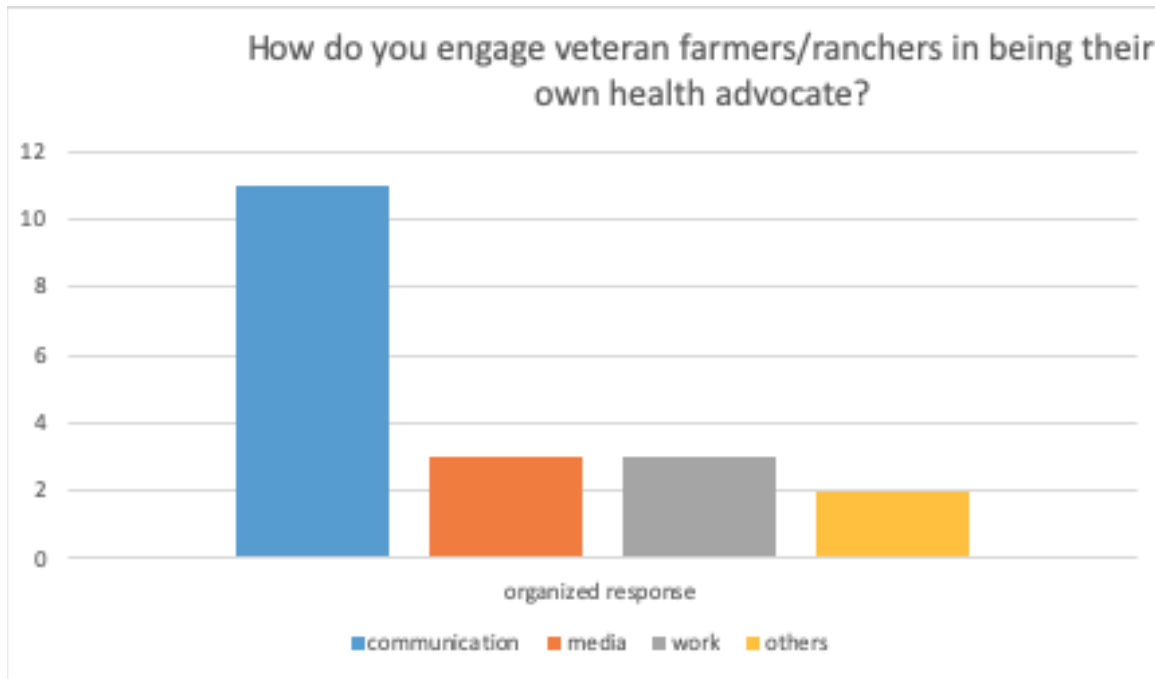
- Better info
- Messaging
- Messaging thru local Coop's or grain elevators National media campaigns with USDA

"Farm organizations" include:

- Farm bureau
- Farm markets
- Farm supply businesses

2. How do you engage veteran farmers/ranchers in being their own health advocates?

57.89% participants engage veteran farmers/ranchers in being by communication.



Explanation:

"Communication" included:

- Ask
- Community outreach events
- Encouragement to seek others of similar positions
- Explain to the veteran then they need to be the one to speak for themselves
- Find veteran friendly referrals
- I speak with them one on one at the elevator
- Listening groups
- Make connections through family and friends
- Peer-to-peer
- Tell their story
- We Reach out to them to provide info from reliable sources

"Media" include:

- Free local health events
- Free screenings
- Local mailings

Explanation:

“Others” include:

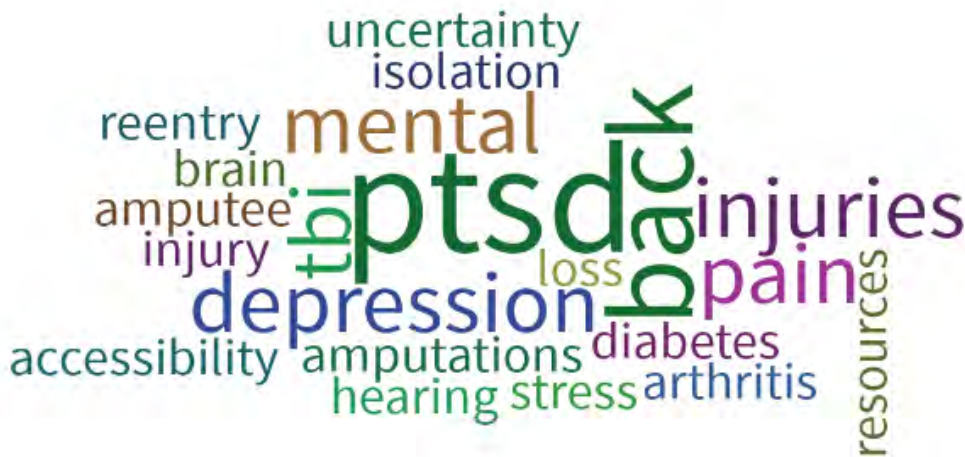
- Eliminate stigma associated with mental illness
- Partner with VA Office of Rural Health
- Traveling services

“Work” includes:

- As a nurse veteran and involved in the VFW, I can guide members through programs but also give them personal attention to their problems while not falling into the 'owning' of their problems/issues. They tend to talk more freely to me as a female at times. I have heard they tell me more than they have confided in their wives.
- We work with the County Service Officers to coordinate services to Veterans & their families

3. What are the top health conditions veteran farmers face?

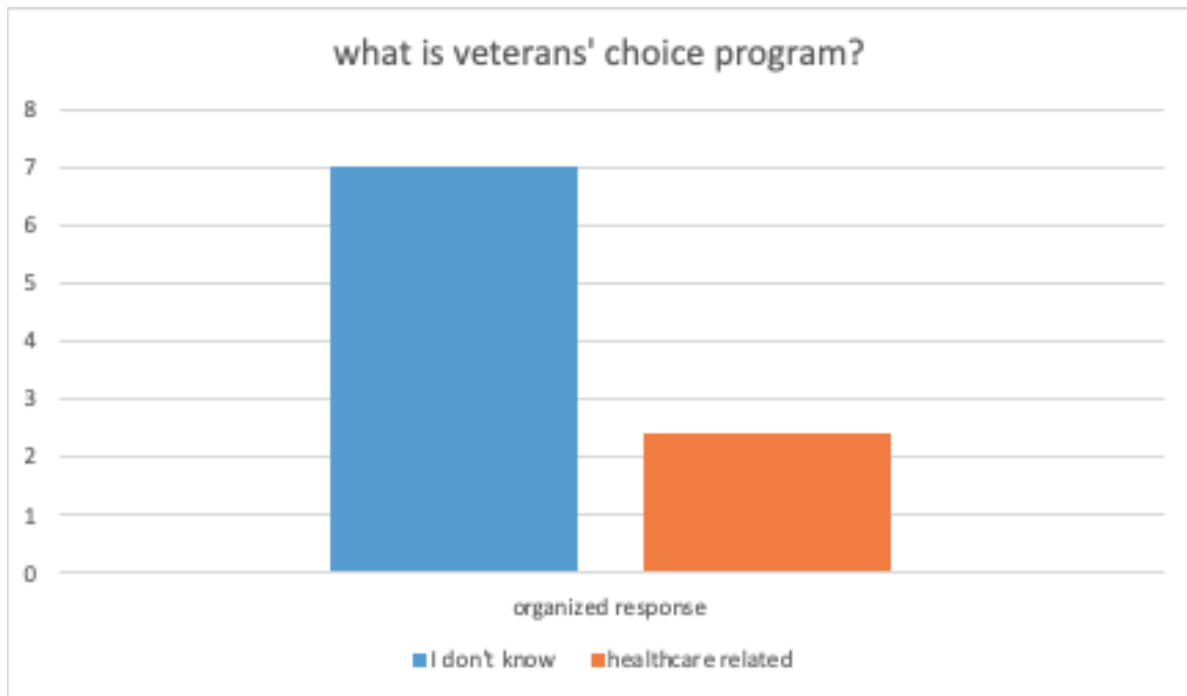
40% participants said mental health is the top health condition



4. What is veterans' choice program?

63.64% participants don't know veterans' choice program

36.36% participants think veterans' choice program is healthcare related program



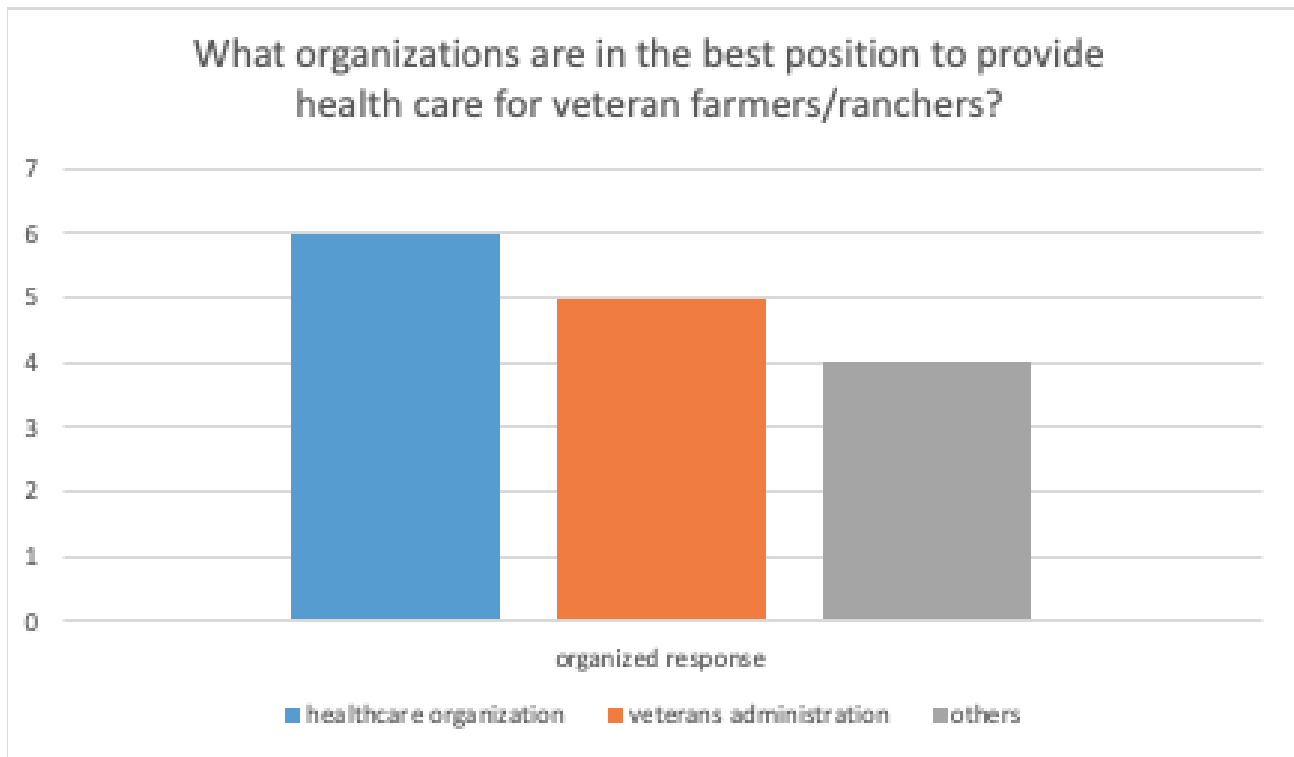
Explanation:

"Healthcare Related" include:

- Access to doctors
- Allows Veterans to see the doctor of their choice
- Community Care access Healthcare providers

5. What organizations are in the best position to provide health care for veteran farmers/veterans?

44% participants choose healthcare organization



Explanation:

“Healthcare organization” include:

- Health ministry
- Local CBOC
- Local clinic
- Local clinics
- Local health departments
- Regional hospitals with specialists

“Others” include:

- AGSAFE
- Lack
- Local Providers who get special training on military life
- Local providers

Poll Questions

- 1. How can we advocate for public health programs that serve the needs of veteran farmers/ranchers?***
- 2. How do you engage veteran farmers/ranchers in being their own health advocates?***
- 3. What are the top health conditions veteran farmers face?***
- 4. What is veterans' choice program?***
- 5. What organizations are in the best position to provide health care for veteran farmers/veterans?***

Moving Forward

Working to identify the gaps in knowledge and resources is crucial in serving military veteran farmers and ranchers. This Think Tank provided important perspectives from our stakeholders and we appreciate their contributions. Exposures related to active and reserve duty, along with risks associated with agricultural occupations, makes this population an interest to agricultural safety and health. In order to best serve and support our military veteran farmers and ranchers, will require working with stakeholders- healthcare providers, Veteran's Administration, University Extension, veterans service and nonprofit organizations.

AgriSafe Action Steps: **Awareness** Collect stories from the field from military veteran farmers and ranchers. **Outreach** Attend various events to share key health and safety information to military veteran farmers. Continue offering online **trainings and webinars** about issues related to behavioral health including depression and PTSD, back pain, and chronic illness.



AgriSafe Farmer Military Veterans Think Tank.



Mental Wellness Resource

Access the webinar at:



<https://learning.agrisafe.org/products/agrisafe-think-tank-improving-the-health-of-farmer-military-veterans>

Generous support provided by

