



Heading Towards Sustainability- Part I: Agroforestry

A Resource List

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

TOPIC

Agroforestry is a system that intentionally combines growing trees and shrubs with other crops and/or livestock. A well-managed agroforestry system may just be part of the solution to sustainability. It improves soil and water quality, reaps economic benefits for the producer, and yields a suite of environmental benefits. Once established agroforestry projects may require less labor compared to agricultural crops of equal economic value.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/heading_towards_sustainability_part_i_agrofor.php

TRAINERS

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Richard Straight

Rich is originally from Iowa where he received his B.S. and M.S. in Forest Management. He has served as a City Forester in Iowa, a Field Service Forester, a State Staff Forester for the NRCS, both in Nebraska and for the last 7 years as the Technology Transfer Lead for the USDA National Agroforestry Center. The Center is a 3-way partnership of two divisions of the USDA Forest Service, those being Research & Development and State & Private Forestry, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. His primary focus at the Agroforestry Center is to promote the understanding and adoption of agroforestry in the U.S. This is done by providing information and training to natural resource professionals who in turn work with private landowners. Working as a forester in the land of corn, beans, and cows, and he has learned many lessons on the benefits and power of partnerships. Even his favorite past time of upland bird hunting is dependent on a partnership with his dog.

Brad Riphagen

Brad is a Field Coordinator with Trees Forever, where he has been for nearly 13 years. The programs he's responsible for include NeighborWoods in Des Moines, Agroforestry for Organic Producers, and Visioning with small communities. In all these programs, he works closely with volunteers to help them develop and implement successful projects. Brad has a B.A. in Biology from Central College in Pella, Iowa and an M.S. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. His thesis examined prairies impact on soil structure and involved several restorations. He and his family live in Jefferson, Iowa.





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OVERVIEW

Is a well-managed agroforestry system part of the solution to sustainability? Imagine a landscape that combines Chinese chestnuts, then pawpaws as understory trees, with raspberries and blackberries planted under the pawpaws, and finally a specialty forest crop such as ginseng or goldenseal.

The system combines trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock to diversify products, markets, and farm income, improves soil and water quality while reducing erosion and non-point source pollution and enhancing wildlife habitats, and there are benefits from using multi-cropping and multi-story practices including better stormwater management, windbreaks, riparian buffers and waterways and travel corridors, alley cropping, long-term wood production, silvopasture, forest farming, and other agroforestry practices.

It improves soil and water quality, reaps economic benefits for the producer (\$4/lb for the nuts and 1,000 lbs/acre), and yields a suite of environmental benefits. Once established agroforestry projects may require less labor compared to agricultural crops of equal economic value. But agroforestry is management intensive and requires transparent communication with neighbors....

INFORMATION RESOURCES

USDA National Agroforestry Center (Lincoln, NE)

The USDA National Agroforestry Center had its origins in the 1990 Farm Bill. It began as a Forest Service Research and State & Private Forestry effort in 1992 and expanded into a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1995. They are primarily involved in providing resources and training for natural resource professionals to increase the use and understanding of agroforestry technology such as windbreaks, alley cropping, and riparian forest buffers on agricultural lands.

More information at: www.unl.edu/nac

Trees Forever (Marion, IA)

Trees Forever has funding through a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant to provide technical and cost share assistance (75% up to \$3,500) to ten producers annually to establish agroforestry buffers for organic crops. They assist producers in planning and planting practices. In exchange for the assistance, producers allow the plantings to be showcased through a field education day coordinated by Trees Forever staff.

More information at: www.treesforever.org

National Association of Conservation Districts (Washington, DC)

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the nonprofit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States. Resource Conservation Districts are natural partners in agroforestry, because they have many of the same issues in common. A State Directory is available online.

More information at: www.nacdnet.org





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INFORMATION RESOURCES (cont.)

University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (Columbia, MO)

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) is one of the world's leading centers contributing to the science underlying agroforestry. UMCA is supported by and manages three significant USDA-ARS programs, including the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC). HARC is a 660-acre farm that includes several experimental fruit and nut orchards; forest farming, riparian buffer, and silvopasture demonstrations; forage shade trials; greenhouses; a 12-channel flood tolerance laboratory; and five lakes and ponds. The Center seeks to develop the scientific basis for designing and prescribing agroforestry practices within a "systems context," which allows technology to be used most effectively. UMCA offers newsletters, publications in print and on DVD, and a collection of general agroforestry publications.

More information at: www.centerforagroforestry.org

1890 Agroforestry Consortium (Nashville, TN)

The 1890 Agroforestry Consortium is a team of 1890 land-grant university and USDA government agency partners. Its mission is to develop and advance agroforestry research, teaching, and extension among the 1890 land-grant universities plus Tuskegee University, using multi-disciplinary teams of faculty and staff working in partnership with government agencies and other entities. Consortium members are: Alcorn State University, Alabama A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Tennessee State University, Southern University, and Tuskegee University.

More information at: www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/forests_if_1890agro.html

Arboretum America (Ottawa, Canada)

Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger, a professor at the University of Ottawa School of Medicine, advocates for what she terms a bioplan: reforesting cities and rural areas with trees according to the medicinal, environmental, nutritional, pesticidal and herbicidal properties she claims for them, which she calls ecofunctions.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/advocating_an_unusual_role_for_trees.php

Medical Botany: Plants Affecting Human Health (St. Louis, MO)

Memory Elvin-Lewis is a professor of botany at Washington University and co-author of "Medical Botany: Plants Affecting Human Health" (2003, John Wiley & Sons).

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/advocating_an_unusual_role_for_trees.php

Association for Temperate Agroforestry (Columbia, MO)

AFTA works to inform landowners, resource professionals, researchers, and educators about temperate agroforestry. With a primary focus on North America, they collate up-to-date information on the science and practice of agroforestry and the related fields of sustainable agriculture and non-industrial private forestry. They provide this information through several channels including: a monthly e-newsletter, a quarterly print newsletter, searchable database of agroforestry research and demonstration, annual conference series, and various publications.

More information at: www.aftaweb.org

National Association of State Foresters (Washington, DC)

NASF is a nonprofit organization that represents the directors of all 50 State Forestry agencies, the eight U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia. Through public-private partnerships, NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment.

More information at: www.stateforesters.org





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SUCCESS STORIES

City of Lenexa, KS (Lenexa, KS)

Justified the installation of a green infrastructure stormwater management system on the lines of economic development.

More information at: www.ci.lenexa.ks.us

Edible Estates (Los Angeles, CA)

Initiated in 2005 by architect and artist Fritz Haeg, these provocative gardens have introduced edible landscapes of fruits, vegetables, and herbs into cities and neighborhoods. Locations include: Baltimore, Austin, London, Maplewood (NJ), Lakewood (CA), and Salina (KS). Animal Estates will operate with a similar spirit of benevolent provocation, inspiring consideration of our place in the world.

More information at: www.edibleestates.org

Arbor Day Farm (Nebraska City, NE)

The USDA National Agroforestry Center offices are located in Lincoln, NE, so it was a natural fit for them to setup the Agroforestry Field Site at Arbor Day Farm to demonstrate some of the most effective conservation practices available. This attractive, natural setting is home to terraces and buffer strips, alley cropping demonstrations, the planting of switch grass and alfalfa alternating with standard row crops, an infiltration basin, a living snow fence, and woody crops like hazelnuts and chestnuts, small fruit crops, Christmas trees, and small decorative and ornamental crops like pussy willow. Contact: Suzie Wirth, Farm Educator, 402-873-8703.

More information at: www.arbordayfarm.org

FUNDING

Natural Resources Conservation Service (Washington, DC)

Since 1935, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), originally called the Soil Conservation Service, has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources. NRCS provides technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs. They also provide financial assistance for many conservation activities through their Conservation Innovation Grant. Their flagship program is: Conservation Technical Assistance, which provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. Contact Gary Wells.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/stories/usda_conservation_innovation_grants.php

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education program (Burlington, VT)

The Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education program (SARE) is a USDA competitive grants program that supports research and education to build the future economic viability of agriculture in the United States. SARE funding is authorized under Subtitle B of Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. The primary tool the program uses to reach its outcome statement is an active grants program that serves farmers, researchers, and educators. Professional Development Grants allow experienced agricultural educators to develop opportunities for extension, NRCS, and other agricultural professionals to learn about sustainable concepts and practices. Awards range from \$60,000 and \$175,000. Research and Education Grants involve scientists, producers, and others in an interdisciplinary approach to important issues in sustainable agriculture. Awards range from \$4,300 to \$331,500. Sustainable Community Grants involve organizations such as community nonprofits, Cooperative Extension, local governments, educational institutions, planning boards, farming cooperatives, and incorporated citizens' groups. This program reconnects rural revitalization and farming. Most grants are capped at \$10,000.

More information at: www.uvm.edu/~nesare

