






Farms Branching Out:

Expanding opportunities for agroforestry markets, connections, and conservation

We are a team from Michigan State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ohio State University, Central State University (Ohio), and the USDA Forest Service who were recently funded to survey and interview farmers and natural resource professionals to better understand and accelerate agroforestry practice uptake and to develop a research protocol for agroforestry demonstration farms that will also host long-term research.

What are Agroforestry practices?

Agroforestry Practices	Examples
<p>Alley Cropping:</p> <p>The planting of rows of trees and/or shrubs to create alleys within which agricultural or horticultural crops are produced.</p>	
<p>Forest Farming:</p> <p>The cultivation of high-value crops under the protection of a managed tree canopy.</p>	
<p>Riparian Forest Buffers:</p> <p>An area adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants and is managed differently from the surrounding landscape, primarily to provide conservation benefits.</p>	
<p>Silvopasture:</p> <p>The deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land.</p>	
<p>Windbreaks:</p> <p>Linear plantings of trees and shrubs designed to provide economic, environmental and community benefits.</p>	

Forest Service USDA - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/practices/index.shtml#:~:text=The%20five%20practices%20are%20windbreaks,cropping%2C%20silvopasture%20and%20forest%20farming.>



What else is included?

- Maple syrup production
- Christmas trees
- Fruit and Nut Bearing Trees
- General tree and woodland management

How can I participate?

- **Peer-to-Peer Agroforestry Exchanges**

*Are you interested in sharing information with like-minded individuals? We are seeking farmers who would **host** an Agroforestry Exchange at their farm (or a series of meetings). We will provide refreshments and recommend some professionals who can come speak and kick off your meeting. We can work with you to brainstorm topics, format, and logistics. We are also seeking farmers who are interested in **attending** a nearby exchange - we can connect you to hosts!*

- **Cost-share for Management Plans (that include Agroforestry)**

Are you interested in developing a management plan for your property? We are looking for farmers open to having a management plan written for the trees and woods on your farm. We will connect you to a forester who can write a plan for you, and may be able to cost-share some or all of the plan expenses.

- **Video production, Interviews, and Case Studies**

Are you interested in participating in a video that displays your practices? Or are you willing to have a researcher come and interview you on your farm? We are recruiting interested farmers who have already initiated an agroforestry practice, are thinking about initiating a practice in the next 1-2 years (so we can follow your process of installing this practice), or are not yet sure if agroforestry is a good fit for their land. Case study materials (videos, photos, written material) would be shared on the National Agroforestry Center website, the project website, and with other groups who serve farmers. Interviews will inform research to better understand the decision-making process for agroforestry practices.

- **Demonstration sites for field days**

Are you interested in your property becoming an educational site? We are seeking farmers with current agroforestry practices to host other farmers for field days and demonstrations. We will support you with refreshments, guest speakers, and assist with logistics.

If you are interested in one or more of these opportunities, please contact Project Manager, Amanda Curton curtonam@msu.edu.

“This project involves a team of passionate and dedicated researchers and Extension professionals who have worked with farmers and woodland owners in the Upper Midwest for decades. This is a unique opportunity to support synergy between forestry and agriculture professionals and landowners who have to expand agroforestry practices through the region.” - Dr. Emily Huff, Program Director

