

# Working Trees

## for the 2002 Farm Bill



**This legislation supports agroforestry - planting the right trees in the right place for the right reasons.**



The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) has been hailed as the single most significant commitment toward conservation on private lands in the Nation's history. Landowners can benefit from a portfolio of voluntary services. The conservation provisions can assist farmers and ranchers in meeting environmental and production challenges on their land. This legislation modifies existing programs and creates some new programs. The 2002 Farm Bill provides many opportunities

to enhance the long-term quality of our environment and the conservation of our natural resources.

Agroforestry has come a long way in the United States in the last 20 years and the 2002 Farm Bill provides an increased level of recognition of and support for agroforestry. A greater number of conservation programs, both public and private, now include cost sharing, incentive and maintenance payments, and rental rates for agroforestry practices. The finan-

cial success of most agroforestry practices does not depend on cost share programs. However, some agroforestry practices provide conservation benefits that extend far beyond the property line. Many Farm Bill programs provide economic incentives for this kind of good stewardship.

Although there are more funding programs than described in this flyer, those listed represent federal sources with the greatest application to agroforestry.



# Agroforestry practices

Today, agroforestry practices are being adopted in all regions of the country. From alley cropping in the central states to forest farming in the east, and silvopasture in the south, agroforestry practices are taking root.

**Alley Cropping** is the cultivation of food, forage, or specialty crops between rows of high-value trees.



**Riparian Forest Buffers** are strips of trees, shrubs, and grass planted between cropland or pasture and surface water to protect water quality, stabilize streambanks, and reduce flooding.



**Silvopasture** is the planned combination of trees, forage plants, and livestock together as an integrated, intensively-managed system.

**Forest Farming** is the cultivation of edible, medicinal, or decorative specialty crops beneath native or planted woodlands. It is not merely the gathering of naturally-occurring plants from native forests, also known as wildcrafting.



# USDA programs that will work for you

## Administered by Farm Service Agency

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands.
- **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)** focuses on using buffers, filter strips, and windbreaks to protect soil, improve air and water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** helps producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** assists farmers and ranchers who face serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources. EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals.
- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** offers landowners opportunities to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

## Forest Service Program

- **Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)** provides technical assistance and incentive payments to owners of private non-industrial forest land.

## CSREES Program

- **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)** has helped advance farming systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities. SARE funds projects and conducts research and outreach designed to improve agricultural systems.



## Administered by NRCS

- **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** provides financial and technical assistance for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil, water, and related resources on Tribal and private lands.

# USDA programs for agroforestry

	Alley Cropping	Riparian Buffers	Wind-breaks	Silvo-pasture	Forest Farming
<b>FSA</b>					
CRP	C / M / R				
CCRP		C / I / M / R	C / I / M / R		
CREP		C / I / M / R			
<b>NRCS</b>					
EQIP	C / I	C / I	C / I	C	C
WRP		C / R			
CSP	C / R	C / R	C / R	C / R	
<b>FS</b>					
FLEP	C	C	C	C	C
<b>CSREES</b>					
SARE	PG	PG	PG	PG	PG

C: Cost Share, I: Incentive, M: Maintenance, PG: Producer Grant, R: Rental

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**NAC's Mission:** The USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) is a partnership of the USDA Forest Service, Research & Development (Rocky Mountain Research Station) and State & Private Forestry and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NAC's purpose is to accelerate the development and application of agroforestry technologies to attain more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable land-use systems. To accomplish its mission, NAC interacts with a national network of cooperators to conduct research, develop technologies and tools, establish demonstrations, and provide useful information to natural resource professionals.

**Address:** USDA National Agroforestry Center, East Campus - UNL, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0822. For a supply of brochures, contact NAC on the web at [www.unl.edu/nac](http://www.unl.edu/nac).

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