



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS – Technical and Financial Assistance Supporting Silvopasture



Joe Alley – NRCS National Agroforester

02/27/2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Overview

- **What is NRCS?**
- **NRCS Conservation Planning and Resource Concerns**
- **NRCS Programs**
- **Additional Resources and Tools**



Soil Conservation Act

April 27, 1935

Franklin D. Roosevelt



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

🇺🇸 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾

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 →

- CONSERVATION BASICS
- GETTING ASSISTANCE
- PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
- RESOURCES
- NEWS & EVENTS
- CONTACT



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Boonville Service Center
Natural Resources Conservation Service
(660) 882-5647

Physical Address
17066 Highway 87
Boonville, MO 65233-2938
[Get Directions](#) ▾

Mailing Address
Mailing Address not available.

Contact
Michael Snellen
mike.snellen@usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conservation Planning And Natural Resource Concerns

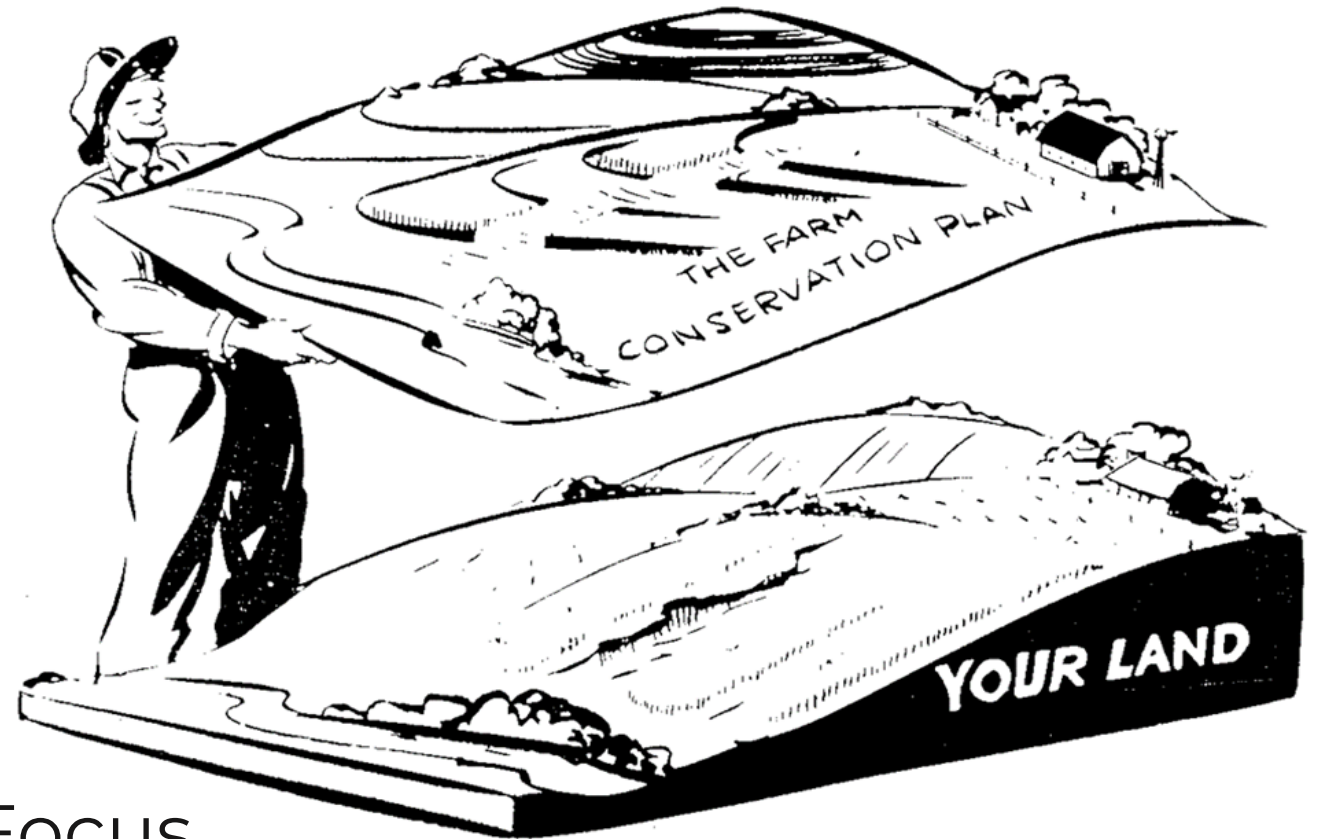


How to “Speak” NRCS...

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Conservation Plan

- Voluntary
- Site-specific
- Comprehensive
- Action Oriented
- Natural Resource Concern Focus
- Supports Technical and Financial Assistance



Natural Resource Concerns

- **Six Categories (SWAPA+E)**

- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Plants
- Animals
- Energy



- **47 Resource Concerns Components**
 - **Soil – 11** (*Soil Erosion and Soil Health*)
 - **Water – 20** (*Availability, Surface and Groundwater Pollution*)
 - **Air – 5** (*GHG & Particulate Matter*)
 - **Plant – 4** (*Health & Productivity, Inv. Spp, & Wildfire*)
 - **Animals – 5** (*Shelter; Feed, Forage, & Water Avail.; Wildlife, Pollinator, & Aquatic Habitat*)
 - **Energy – 2** (*Field Ops., and Facilities*)

Natural Resource Concerns (*aka...problems*)



Conservation Practice Standards (CPS)

- *160+ National CPS*
- *Address Natural Resource Concerns*
- ***Provide guidance*** for applying conservation technology on the land
- Set the ***minimum acceptable level*** for application of the technology

Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
SILVOPASTURE
Code 381
(Ac)

DEFINITION
Establishment and/or management of desired trees and forages on the same land unit.

PURPOSE

- Provide forage, shade, and/or shelter for livestock.
- Improve the productivity and health of trees/shrubs and forages.
- Improve water quality.
- Reduce erosion.
- Enhance wildlife habitat.
- Improve biological diversity.
- Improve soil quality.
- Increase carbon sequestration and storage.
- Provide for beneficial organisms and pollinators.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES
This practice may be applied on any area that is suitable for the desired forages, trees, and livestock.

CRITERIA
General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes
Use plant species (i.e., trees and forages; shrubs where desired) that are adapted to the climate, soil, and biological conditions of the site and compatible with its planned use and management.
Establish and maintain silvopasture in a forested condition that is at least 10-percent stocked by single-stemmed woody species of any size that will be at least 4 meters (13 feet) tall at maturity.
Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weeds lists.
Manage grazing at appropriate levels to establish and maintain silvopasture productivity and function. Facilities for providing water, minerals, or supplemental feed will be located and distributed such that livestock will properly utilize forages in the silvopasture. Control livestock access to areas with sensitive soils (e.g., wetlands, riparian zones, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.). Use NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Prescribed Grazing (Code 528).
Where trees, or a combination of trees and shrubs, are added to existing pasture, range, or crop land, perform site preparation and tree/shrub planting as needed based on existing vegetation and soil

SILVOPASTURE

Code 381

(Ac)

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Silvopasture Within the NRCS Context

- *Understand* Silvopasture within a broader sense.
- *Plan* Silvopasture within the context of NRCS Practices and Program Policies.





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NRCS Conservation Programs for Silvopasture



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CONSERVATION BASICS

GETTING ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

RESOURCES

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Our natural resource conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

[VIEW ALL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES](#)

Programs

Easements

Watershed Programs

Initiatives

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Provides assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns.

Agricultural Management Assistance

Helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Brings together partners to expand the reach of NRCS conservation programs.

Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

Offers competitive grants to support wetland mitigation banks for ag producers.

Conservation Stewardship Program

Helps agricultural producers take their conservation efforts to the next level.

Conservation Innovation Grants

Brings together partners to innovate on conservation approaches and technologies.

Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides a yearly rental payment to farmers who remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural

FEATURED



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

Feedback

Common to EQIP and CSP

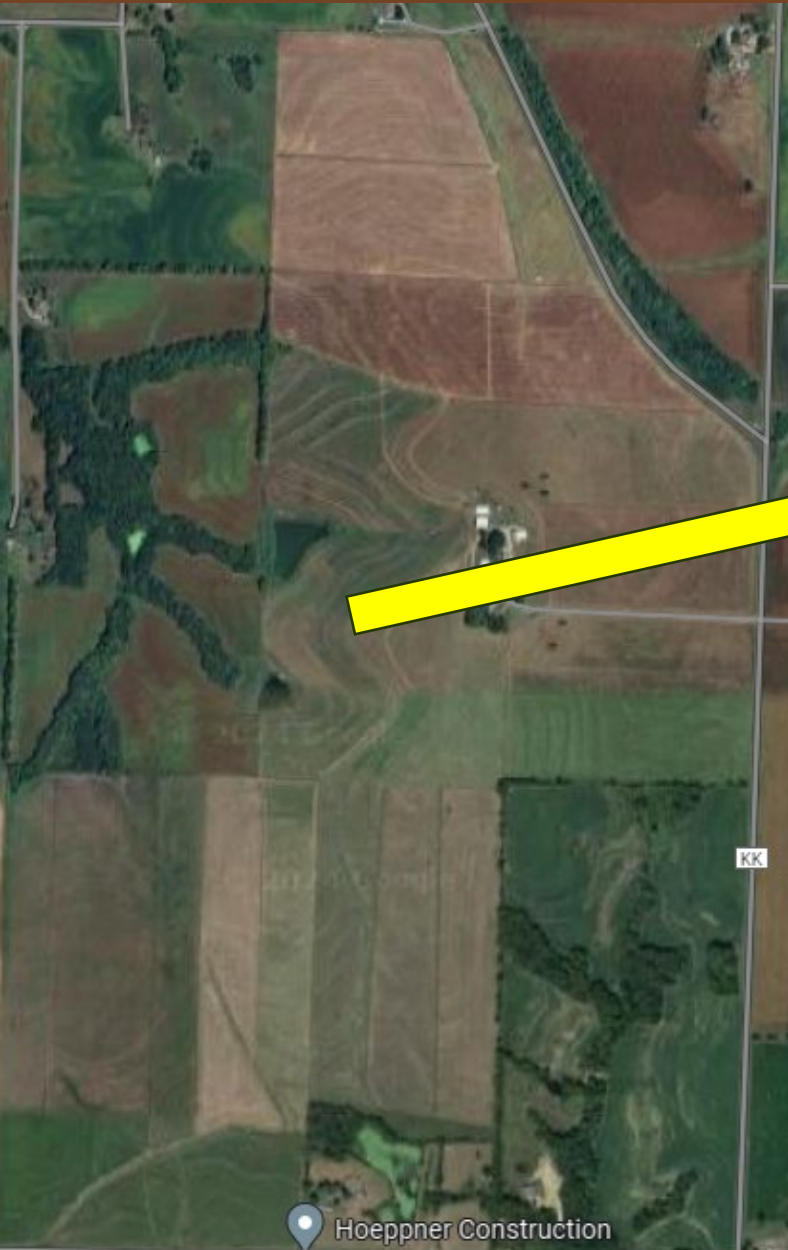
- Continuous signup...*but must apply by state-specific ranking dates*
- Applicant Eligibility
- Land Eligibility
- Competitive
- Contractual Requirements

EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP= Conservation Stewardship Practices

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- *“...NRCS’ flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.”*
- Can address individual natural resource concerns.
- Variable contract period: *enough time to install practices.*
- Flat rate payments are determined during contract development process.
- Payment made after practice is installed and certified.



**EQIP financial assistance:
Tree & Shrub Site Prep, Tree & Shrub
Establishment (w/ Tree Protection), Mulching,
and Pasture & Hay Planting (prev. cropland)**













Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- *“...is designed to **compensate** agricultural and forest producers who agree to **increase their level of conservation** by **adopting additional conservation activities** and **maintaining their baseline** level of conservation. CSP is for producers who are **passionate about conservation and environmental stewardship.**”*

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Must include all acres for each land use in contract.
- Must meet “Stewardship Threshold” for each land use.
- Five-year contract with Annual Base Payment.
















CSP Enhancements

- Based on Conservation Practice Standards.
- Include additional criteria to “increase the level of conservation”.
- Payment for “Enhancements” or practices after installation and certification.
- Flat-rate financial assistance but usually substantially higher than EQIP practices.

Enhancement Fact Sheets <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/enhancements-factsheets>

Enhancement List <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program/csp-enhancements-bundles-and-supplemental#Aenhancements>

Factsheets

-  [Corn](#) (2.76 MB)
-  [Cotton](#) (2.69 MB)
-  [Crops](#) (1.77 MB)
-  [Dairy](#) (1.72 MB)
-  [Forestry](#) (2.13 MB)
-  [Livestock](#) (2.1 MB)
-  [Organics](#) (2.18 MB)
-  [Pork](#) (2.51 MB)
-  [Poultry](#) (2.21 MB)
-  [Rice](#) (1.96 MB)
-  [SoilHealth](#) (2.29 MB)
-  [Sorghum](#) (2.41 MB)
-  [Soybeans](#) (1.98 MB)
-  [Wheat](#) (1.65 MB)
-  [Wildlife](#) (2.29 MB)

[Grazing management that improves Monarch butterfly habitat \(E528B\)](#)

[Incorporating wildlife refuge areas in contingency plans for wildlife \(E528C\)](#)

[Grazing management for improving quantity and quality of food or cover and shelter for wildlife \(E528D\)](#)

[Improved grazing management for enhanced plant structure and composition for wildlife \(E528E\)](#)

[Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health \(E528F\)](#)

[Improved grazing management on pasture for plant productivity and health with monitoring activities \(E528G\)](#)

[Prescribed grazing to improve/maintain riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature \(E528H\)](#)

[Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-surface or ground water from nutrients \(E528I\)](#)

[Prescribed grazing on pastureland that improves riparian and watershed function \(E528J\)](#)

[Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion \(E528L\)](#)

[Grazing management that protects sensitive areas from gully erosion \(E528M\)](#)

[Improved grazing management through monitoring activities \(E528N\)](#)

[Clipping mature forages to set back vegetative growth for improved forage quality \(E528O\)](#)

[Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water \(E528P\)](#)

[Use of body condition scoring for livestock on a monthly basis to keep track of herd health \(E528Q\)](#)

[Management Intensive Rotational Grazing \(E528R\)](#)

[Soil Health Improvements on Pasture \(E528S\)](#)

[Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Risks on Forests \(E528T\)](#)

[Contingency Planning for Resiliency \(E528U\)](#)

E381A

Silvopasture to improve wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description

Establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage, providing forage, shade, and/or shelter for livestock that include a purpose of enhancing wildlife cover and shelter.

Criteria

- Tree species and forage species must be adapted to the site and compatible with the planned management of the site.
- No plants on the federal or state noxious weeds list shall be planted.
- Where trees will be added to existing pasture, site preparation should be based on existing vegetation and soil conditions. Trees will be planted at an appropriate density to allow acceptable forage production and wood products.
- If pesticides are used, label recommendations must be followed.
- Only viable, high quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.

EQIP VS CSP

Field Level

Farm Level

NRCS Certified Technical Service Providers (TSP)

- Technical service providers (TSPs) work on behalf of the customer to offer planning, design, and implementation services that meets NRCS criteria.
- TSPs include individuals, private businesses, American Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies.
- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/technical-assistance/technical-service-providers>
- <https://nrcs.my.salesforce-sites.com/FindaTSP>

Other Program Opportunities

- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - *Administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA)*
 - *NRCS provides Conservation Planning Assistance*
 - *Annual payment for establishing and maintaining conservation cover.*

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities (PCSC)

- *USDA is committed to supporting a diverse range of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. This effort will expand markets for America's climate-smart commodities, leverage the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production, and provide direct, meaningful benefits to production agriculture, including for small and underserved producers.*
- *USDA is investing more than \$3.1 billion for 141 projects through this effort and all the projects require meaningful involvement of small and underserved producers.*

PCSC – <https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities>



Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects Expanding Climate-Smart Commodity Markets



55
States & Territories



133
Projects



102
Major Commodities

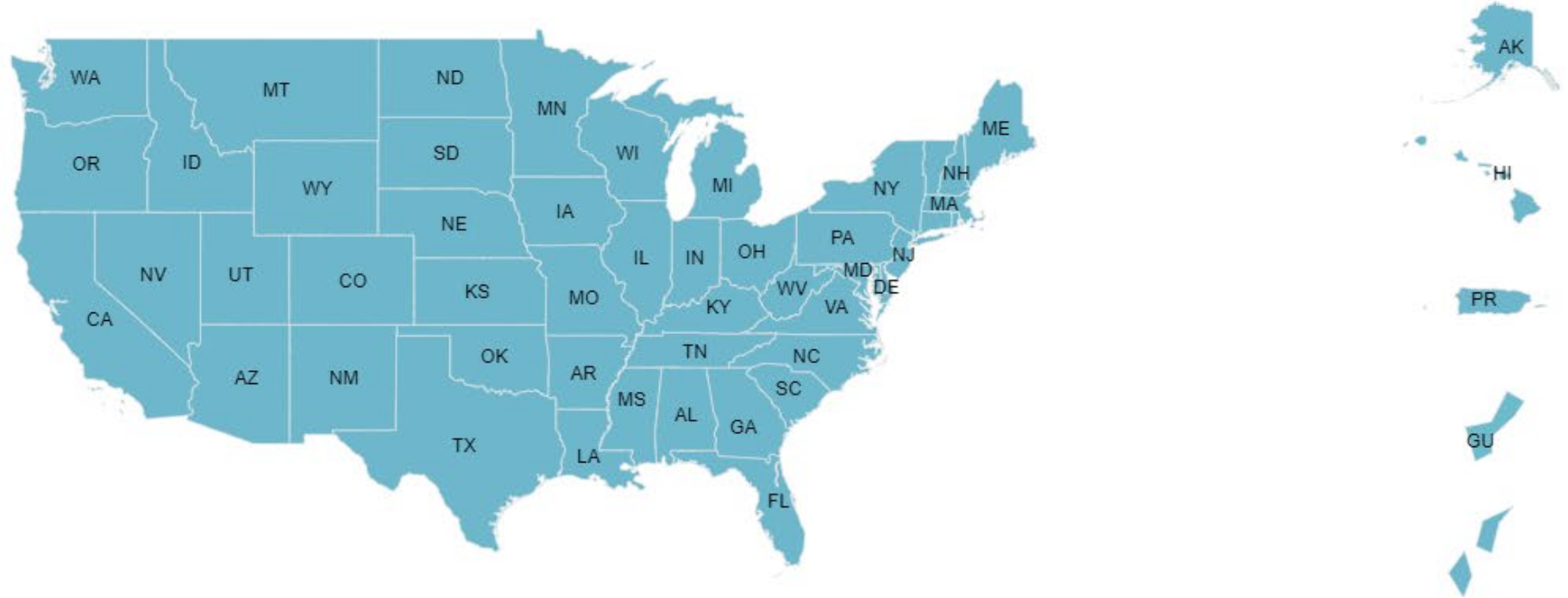


203
Practices



\$3.02 B
Federal Funding*

Click on a state to filter the map or use drop-down menu.



*Total funding for all projects that potentially impact this area, commodity(ies), practice(s) and project(s) as filtered.

COMMODITIES

PRACTICES

LEAD PARTNERS

Click on Lead Partner to navigate to the project details.



Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects

Expanding Climate-Smart Commodity Markets



1
States & Territories



3
Projects



7
Major Commodities



1
Practices



\$13.94 M
Federal Funding*

Click on a state to filter the map or use drop-down menu.



*Total funding for all projects that potentially impact this area, commodity(ies), practice(s) and project(s) as filtered.

COMMODITIES Search Commodities:

- Agroforestry
- Beef
- Breadfruits
- Lamb

PRACTICES Search Practices:

- 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation
- 381 Silvopasture
- 382 Fence

LEAD PARTNERS Search Lead Partners:

Click on Lead Partner to navigate to the project details.

- A Greener World
- American Lamb Board
- Victus Puerto Rico, Inc.



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Additional Resources and Tools



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National Agroforestry Center (USFS)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/>



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HOME ABOUT PRACTICES TOPICS RESOURCES MAPS & DATA EXAMPLES

Silvopasture Publications

- Information Sheets (17)
- Brochures (13)
- Inside Agroforestry (28)
- Agroforestry Notes (16)
- Research (36)
- More Publications (10)

Silvopasture Resources

- [Agroforestry Horizons: Experiences and Reflections](#)
- [Silvopasture Photos](#)
- [Silvopasture Training Course](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(SARE\) Agroforestry Grants Index](#)
- [Webinar Library](#)

Featured topic: Climate Change

Agroforestry can help adapt to and mitigate climate change.

[Go to Webpage](#)

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Accelerating the adoption of agroforestry

The mission of the **USDA National Agroforestry Center** is to advance the health, diversity, and productivity of working lands, waters, and communities through agroforestry. The Center conducts outreach and provides technical assistance. [Read more about the Center...](#)

Other Groups

- State Agencies
- Academic Institutions (Colleges, Universities, and Centers)
- Non-Governmental Organizations

Tools

- How to plant a tree...
- FOTG <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>
- Plants DataBase <https://plants.usda.gov/home>
- Web Soil Survey <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Questions???

JOE.ALLEY@USDA.GOV

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