

Agroforestry in USDA

Departmental Regulation

- On February 26 the Secretary of Agriculture issued a Departmental Regulation that set as policy for USDA regarding Agroforestry.
- Acknowledged that agroforestry practices improve the health and sustainability of agricultural systems.

Departmental Regulation

- Defined Agroforestry as the intentional mixing of trees and shrubs into crop and animal production systems to create environmental, economic, and social benefits.
- Recognized agroforestry as a unique land management approach that provides opportunities to integrate productivity and profitability with environmental stewardship.

Departmental Regulation

- Regulation was based on the USDA Agroforestry Strategic Framework, Fiscal Year 2011-2016 (approved by Secretary Vilsack) May 2011.

Agroforestry Strategic Framework

- The *Framework* was developed by an Interagency Agroforestry Team (IAT), with input from a broad diversity of stakeholders.

Agroforestry Strategic Framework

- A Steering Committee was established in October 2011 to guide and facilitate the resources needed within USDA to implement the Framework.

Agroforestry Strategic Framework

- Committee's members
 - Agricultural Marketing Service
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Forest Service
 - National Institute of Food and Agriculture
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Rural Development

Agroforestry Strategic Framework

- Identifies three goals:
 1. Increase use of agroforestry
 2. Advance the understanding and tools
 3. Incorporate agroforestry into an all-lands

Goal #1 Increase Use of Agroforestry

- **DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS**
 - Create “communities of practice”
 - Establish demonstration sites
 - Use “on-farm” research
 - Create peer-to-peer networks
 - Develop learning opportunities

Goal #1 Increase Use of Agroforestry

- **EDUCATE PROFESSIONALS**
 - Develop “area of expertise”
 - Develop professional recognition
 - Provide training at conferences
 - Demonstrate harvest of products

Goal #1 Increase Use of Agroforestry

- **ENGAGE GLOBALLY**
 - Initiate partnerships between U.S. - World Agroforestry Centre and others
 - Link USDA agencies and extension programs to enhance food security projects

Goal #2 - Advance Understanding and Tools to Apply Agroforestry

- PLAN
 - Prioritize technology to improve the end-user products
 - Catalog USDA research and resources
 - Incorporate into existing USDA science and technology programs

Goal #2 - Advance Understanding and Tools to Apply Agroforestry

- DISCOVER

- Frame priority issues
- Facilitate access to data
- Develop technology to:
 - Protect natural resources
 - Build productive farms/ communities
 - Support environmental markets
 - Create resiliency to climate change
 - Restore ecological services
 - Provide sustainable bioenergy
 - Produce market goods

Goal #2 - Advance Understanding and Tools to Apply Agroforestry

- DISCOVER
 - Develop ability to account for benefits
 - Establish protocols to monitor impacts
 - Conduct lifecycle analyses
 - Quantify the economic benefits

Goal #2 - Advance Understanding and Tools to Apply Agroforestry

- TRANSLATE
 - Facilitate interaction with end-users
 - Tailor education to improve application
 - Customize educational products for targeted audiences and locations

Goal #2 - Advance Understanding and Tools to Apply Agroforestry

- TRANSLATE
 - Develop guidelines to address:
 - Multi-function and multi-scale design
 - Address adaptation to climate change
 - Meet need of limited resource landowners
 - Critical habitat for wildlife

Goal #3 - Incorporate Agroforestry into All-lands

- INSTITUTIONALIZE –
 - Develop a USDA policy statement
 - Direct agencies to take steps
 - Establish Executive Steering Committee
 - Develop MOU
 - Implement plan & monitor
 - Report to the Secretary of Ag

Goal #3 - Incorporate Agroforestry into All-lands

- INSTITUTIONALIZE –
 - Include strategy to achieve the goals of:
 - Statewide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources
 - State Wildlife Action Plans
 - U.S. EPA Unified Watershed Assessments
 - NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessments, etc.

Goal #3 - Incorporate Agroforestry into All-lands

- ASSESS PERFORMANCE
 - Report on the impacts
 - Establish national inventory
 - Monitor thru Census of Ag
 - Monitor thru National Woodland Owners Survey
 - Track applications by communities

Goal #3 - Incorporate Agroforestry into All-lands

- COMMUNICATE RESULTS
 - Communicate benefits with:
 - Tribes
 - Communities
 - Minority landowners
 - Limited-resource producers
 - Natural resource professionals
 - Other stakeholders

Goal #3 - Incorporate Agroforestry into All-lands

- COMMUNICATE RESULTS TO
 - Support sustainable agricultural
 - Foster public-private partnerships
 - Increase understanding of agroforestry
 - Use USDA newsletters, bulletins, etc.

Departmental Regulation

- All Under Secretaries, including those not represented on the Committee, have the responsibility to incorporate agroforestry, as appropriate, into their agency strategic plans.

Departmental Regulation

- The Committee has the responsibility to develop an implementation plan to achieve the Framework Goals.

Departmental Regulation

- The Secretary has the responsibility to incorporate agroforestry, as appropriate, into the next USDA strategic plan.