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