

# Agroforestry Working Groups: Case Studies & Lessons Learned

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# Agroforestry Working Groups

## Why form an agroforestry working group?

- Desired outcome: increased adoption of agroforestry by landowners & communities
- How can a regional working group help?
  - ✓ Increase agroforestry awareness & literacy
  - ✓ Share agroforestry information across traditional programs/disciplines (forestry, agriculture)
  - ✓ Advance agroforestry science and practice
  - ✓ Address an important regional issue

# Agroforestry Working Groups

- **1890 Agroforestry Consortium**
- **Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group**
- **Chesapeake Bay Agroforestry Team**
- **Forest Farming Community of Practice**
- **Pacific Islands Agroforestry Working Group**
- **Northeast Silvopasture Forum**

# 1890 Agroforestry Consortium

**Members:** 1890 Land Grant universities and USDA partners

**Mission/purpose:** Advance agroforestry research and teaching using multi-disciplinary teams of faculty and staff; key customer is limited resource/minority landowners in Southeast region.

**Governance/structure:** Informal, periodic meetings; chair rotates (currently Gwen Boyd, Alcorn State University)

**Key Activities (2000-2013):** 7 workshops; published *Profitable Farms and Woodlands: A Practical Guide in Agroforestry for Landowners, Farmers and Ranchers*

**Website:** [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in\\_focus/forests\\_if\\_1890agro.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/forests_if_1890agro.html)

# Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG)

**Members:** Land Grant universities (Iowa State, University of Missouri, University of Minnesota), USDA agencies, landowners

**Mission/purpose:** “...help advance the science, practice and adoption of agroforestry by natural resource professionals and landowners in the Midwest region of the United States.”

**Governance/structure:** Monthly conference calls; facilitated by Iowa State, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

**Current focus:** Agroforestry Academy (week-long training sessions for professionals five Midwestern states: August 2013 in Missouri and 2014 in Minnesota)

**Website:** <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/midamerican-agroforestry-working-group>

# Chesapeake Bay Agroforestry Team

**Members:** Land Grant universities (e.g., Cornell, Penn State, Virginia State, Virginia Tech) USDA agencies, State forestry agencies (e.g., PA Bureau of Forestry), NGOs

**Mission/purpose:** Accelerate forest restoration in the Bay (2012 *Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy*, 2009 Executive Order)

**Governance/structure:** Periodic conference calls; current chair is Tom Ward, NRCS; facilitated by USFS Northeastern Area.

**Current focus:** Agroforestry actions in *Strategy* (e.g., training sessions, demo sites, Bay Branding of agroforestry products)

**Website (Strategy):** <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/New-Forest-Restoration-Strategy-for-the-Chesapeake-Watershed.aspx>

# Forest Farming Community of Practice

**Core Members (17):** 12 Land Grant universities; 2 USFS; 2 businesses (from across US with experience farming & studying edible, medicinal, decorative/craft-based products)

**Mission/purpose:** Share information with woodland owners and managers about growing and selling high-value non-timber forest products (startup, best practices, markets and policies)

**Governance/structure:** Led by John Munsell, VA Tech Coop Extension (per eXtension CoP requirements)

**Current activities:** Forest farming videos, CoP newsletter

**Website:** <http://www.extension.org/pages/62959/forest-farming-community>

# Pacific Island Agroforestry Working Group

**Members:** USFS Pacific Southwest Region and Research Station, University of Hawaii, NRCS, USDA National Agroforestry Center

**Mission/purpose:** Agroforestry as means to address climate change impacts; improve Island food security, health, nutrition; increase awareness of Pacific Island agroforestry on mainland.

**Governance/structure:** Informal, periodic teleconferences

## **Key Activities (2011-2013):**

- Agroforestry survey of Pacific Island Foresters and partners
- Proposed: two regional agroforestry positions (extension specialist and scientist - climate change, atoll islands)
- Pacific Islands *Working Trees* brochure

# Northeast Silvopasture Forum

**Members:** Universities, USDA, landowner/producers, others?

**Mission/purpose:** Forum for sharing information, Q&A, upcoming workshops, etc., regarding silvopasture in the Northeast

**Governance/structure:** informal, web-based; site created and maintained by Peter Smallidge, Cornell Coop Extension

**Website:** <http://silvopasture.ning.com/profiles/members/>

# Agroforestry Working Groups

## Lessons learned?

- Many working models
- Led/facilitated by Land Grant university
- USDA involved (USFS, NRCS)
- Some involvement by landowners, NGOs
- Important to have central focus/project
- Most have web presence
- Regularly scheduled meetings

# Comments?

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