



# Increasing Adoption of Agroforestry in Tennessee & Beyond

Katie Commender, Appalachian Sustainable Development  
Tennessee State Technical Committee Meeting  
February 13, 2024

# ASD Agroforestry Services



## Technical & Financial Assistance

Agroforestry site visits & conservation planning  
Financial incentive payments for implementation  
Currently available through NRCS CIG & PCSC grants

## Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub

Shared use herb processing facility in Duffield, VA  
Marketing, aggregation & distribution services  
Premium priced markets for forest farmed botanicals

## Training

Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition  
Agroforestry Trainings for Natural Resources  
Professionals



# Forest Farming (379)

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Cultivation of non-timber forest products (NTFP's) under a managed tree canopy

## **Purposes**

Improve soil health with organic matter

Carbon capture and storage

Increase terrestrial habitat

Crop and income diversity

Cultural preservation



# Alley Cropping (311)

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The cultivation of herbaceous crops in the alleys between rows of trees or shrubs

## Purposes

Reduce surface water runoff and erosion

Enhance microclimate for crop/forage quality and quantity

Increase carbon storage

Enhance wildlife and beneficial insect habitat

Increase crop diversity

Improve soil health



# Silvopasture (381)

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The deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land

## Purposes

Provide forage, shade, and/or shelter for livestock

Improve water and soil quality

Reduce erosion

Enhance habitat for wildlife and pollinators

Increase carbon sequestration and storage



## **Known demand from 170 farmers in TN**

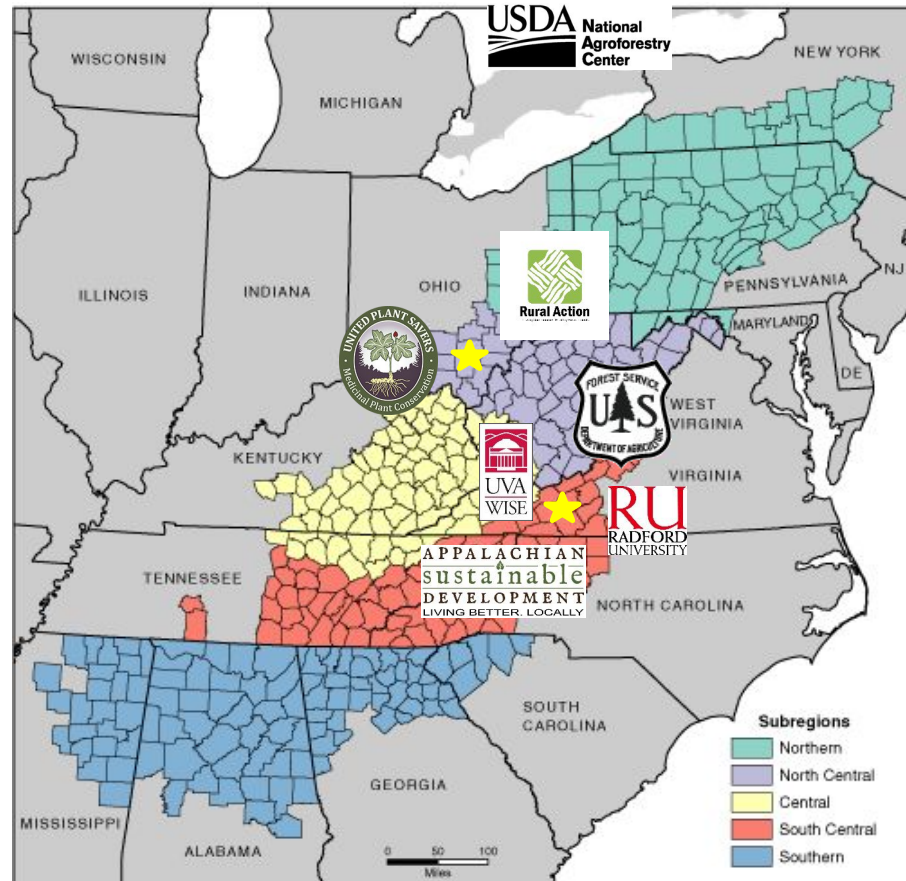
39 farmers applied for technical assistance

4 farmers applied for financial assistance

127 forest farmers in ABFFC trained

# NRCS CIG Project

*Increasing Landscape-Scale  
Adoption of Agroforestry Systems  
in Central Appalachia through  
Market-Based Incentives*



Map by: Appalachian Regional Commission, November 2009.



## **Goal 1 - Forest Farming**

Enhance forestland conservation by increasing the adoption of sustainable and profitable forest farming (379) practices in the forest understory as financial incentive.



## **Goal 2 - Alley Cropping**

Explore Alley Cropping (311) with medicinal herbs and shrubs as an economically viable conservation practice with market-based incentives for adoption.



# 86 Site Visits

**6,838** conserved under forest farming best practices





Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

APPALACHIAN  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
LIVING BETTER LOCALLY



National Agroforestry Center

## Alley Cropping

### Case Studies in Appalachia

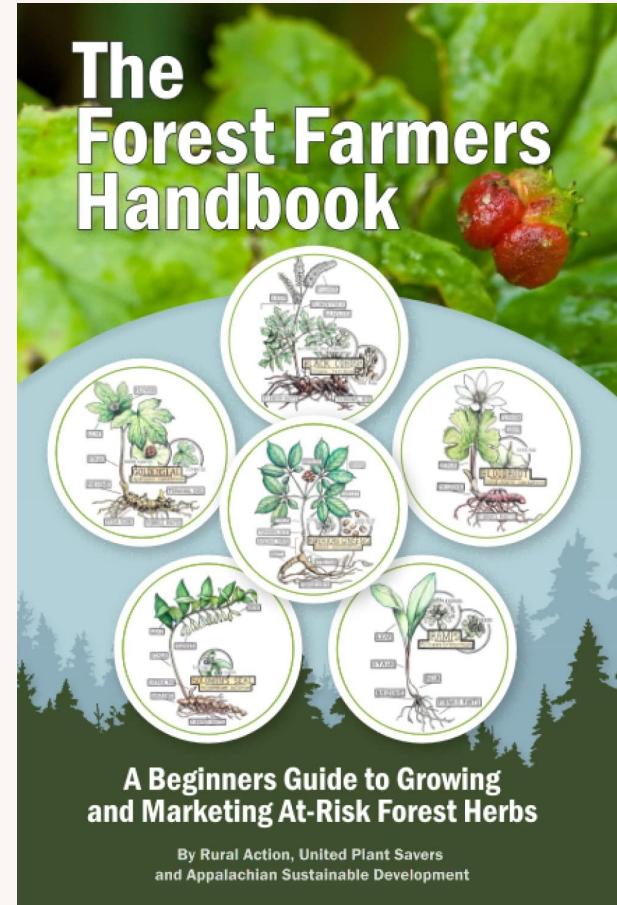
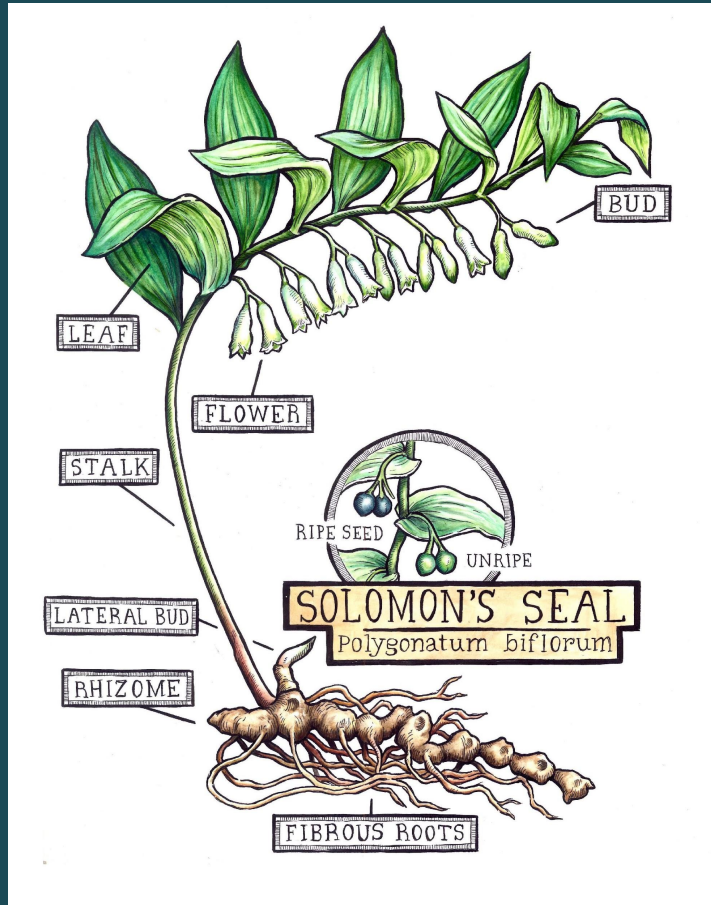


In this alley cropping system, hay is grown between rows of chestnut. Courtesy photo by Ethan Strickley, Swallowtail Forest Farm.

# 7 Demo Sites

7 farm tours  
1 publication





# Forest Farming Calculator - Botanicals

## Introduction

The Forest Farming Calculator - Botanicals is an Excel-based tool that can provide general estimates of income potential from wild stewarding and/or forest farming understory woodland plants for botanical markets. This scoping tool provides preliminary estimates based on default budgets and a more detailed budget based on your specific situation and parameters will be necessary to assess the economics for your enterprise. With support from a USDA NRCS National Conservation Innovation Grant, this tool was developed through wide network of partners and feedback from numerous producers.

Instructions	Financial Summary	Additional Resources
Goldenseal	Ginseng	Black Cohosh
Blue Cohosh	False Unicorn	Bloodroot
Wild Yam	Future Botanical	Future Botanical



Available at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/resources/tools/index.shtml>





# Market-Based Incentive System

**36 herb hub farmers**  
**12 companies submit POs**

## APPALACHIAN HARVEST HERB HUB

### OUR VISION

Appalachian Sustainable Development envisions a thriving and sustainable herbal economy in Central Appalachia, where plant conservation is achieved through cultivation. The Appalachian Harvest Herb Hub in Duffield, VA, is a shared use facility that helps medicinal herb farmers sustainably grow, harvest, process, and sell forest botanicals and field grown herbs to premium markets.

### HOW WE CAN HELP

#### TRAININGS

Workshops on propagation, processing, certifications and more to guide you from seed to sale

#### COST SHARE

Financial assistance to offset forest farming and alley cropping start up costs (grant dependent)

#### PROCESSING

Shared-use commercial herb processing equipment for washing, drying and resizing

#### MARKETING

Aggregation and marketing services to meet volume minimums and access premium-priced markets

You grow the herbs. We grow your business.



#### CONTACT US:

Robin Suggs, Procurement Manager  
Phone: 276-623-1121  
Email: [rsuggs@asdevelop.org](mailto:rsuggs@asdevelop.org)  
[asdevelop.org/herbhub](http://asdevelop.org/herbhub)  
[asdevelop.org/agroforestry](http://asdevelop.org/agroforestry)



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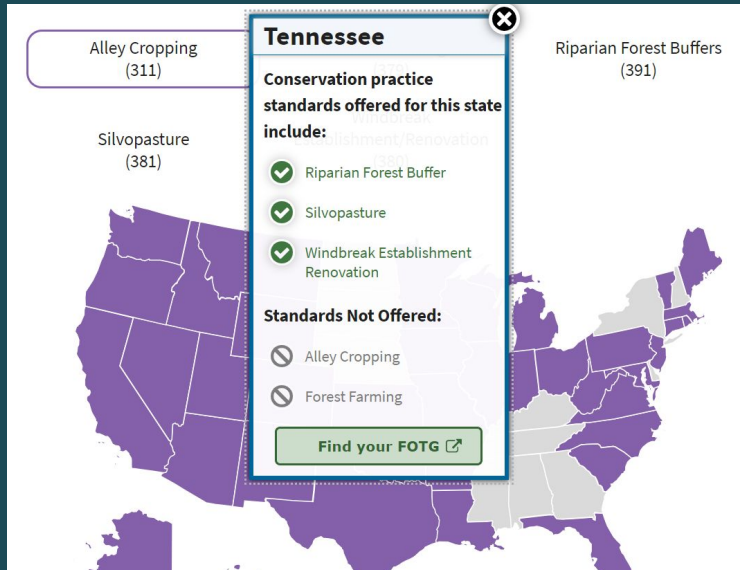


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# Practice Standard Approval



- Barriers & Solutions: limited awareness & technical capacity for agroforestry practices
  - Cross training and mentorship
  - Demonstration sites
  - Farm tours & case studies
- Assisted VA & WV NRCS with adoption, including:
  - 379 payment schedule
  - 379 & 311 agroforestry PEG
  - 379 site visit evaluation guide
  - 379 joint site visits
- In 2023, IRA provided \$19.5 billion to USDA NRCS over 5 years to support programs that yield climate change mitigation benefits (i.e. agroforestry)

# Agroforestry



## TRAININGS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

This series is an inter-regional training collaboration between:

APPALACHIAN  
sustainable  
DEVELOPMENT



NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY



National Agroforestry Center  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Columbia and Greene Counties

# ATFNRP Programming



## Demonstration Sites

9 established in SE & NE (26.5 acres)

3 in VA along the 1-81 corridor with Virginia Tech  
Forest farming, alley cropping & silvopasture

## In-Person Trainings

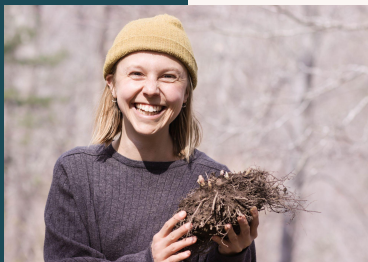
8 inter-regional workshops for 225 people in 2023  
3 were held in VA working closely with NRCS, DOF  
and VCE; CEU's were offered.

## Online Course

6 online courses available at  
[www.learnagroforestry.com/professionals](http://www.learnagroforestry.com/professionals)  
Cost: \$99 bundle; \$30 individual course



# What's Next?



## Trainings

ATFNRP Workshops

2024-25: 3 in VA & 3 in NC

2026: 6 in TN, VA and/or NC

20 Ask an Agroforester Webinar Series

12 farm tours in TN, VA & NC

## Financial Assistance

NRCS CIG ASSETS (\$300k) - up to 500 acres of silvopasture in TN, VA, & NC over the next 3 years  
TNC PCSC (\$36 MM) - 30,000 acres of agroforestry plantings in 30 states over the next 5 years

## Technical Assistance

Slated to conduct 100 site visits over the next 5 years  
Hired a part-time TN Agroforester  
Exploring a regional cooperative agreement

# Sign up for our e-list to stay up to date!

APPALACHIAN  
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DEVELOPMENT

Katie Commender

kcommender@asdevelop.org



Scan QR code with  
your device's camera

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the URL 'asdevelop.org/agroforestry-trainings-for-natural-resource-professionals/'. The browser's address bar and the page's navigation menu are circled in red. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail 'HOME / AGROFORESTRY TRAININGS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS', a main heading 'AGROFORESTRY TRAININGS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS', and two paragraphs of text. At the bottom, a green button with the text 'SIGN UP TO STAY UP TO DATE!' is circled in red.

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HOME / AGROFORESTRY TRAININGS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

## AGROFORESTRY TRAININGS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS

Do you advise land managers, and have an interest in learning more about forest farming, silvopasture, or alley cropping? The increasing interest in agroforestry among land managers has produced a growing need for technical assistance. Join us to learn more about these practices to provide agroforestry technical assistance to your clients.

This program offers a series of in-person trainings combined with online courses, all designed to be *a la carte*, so you can attend whichever sessions you choose. For in-person trainings, register soon to secure your spot(s) and please register for each one separately. When registering, please select the ticket type that most closely matches your organizational affiliation. Find out more about each offering below.

**SIGN UP TO STAY UP TO DATE!**