

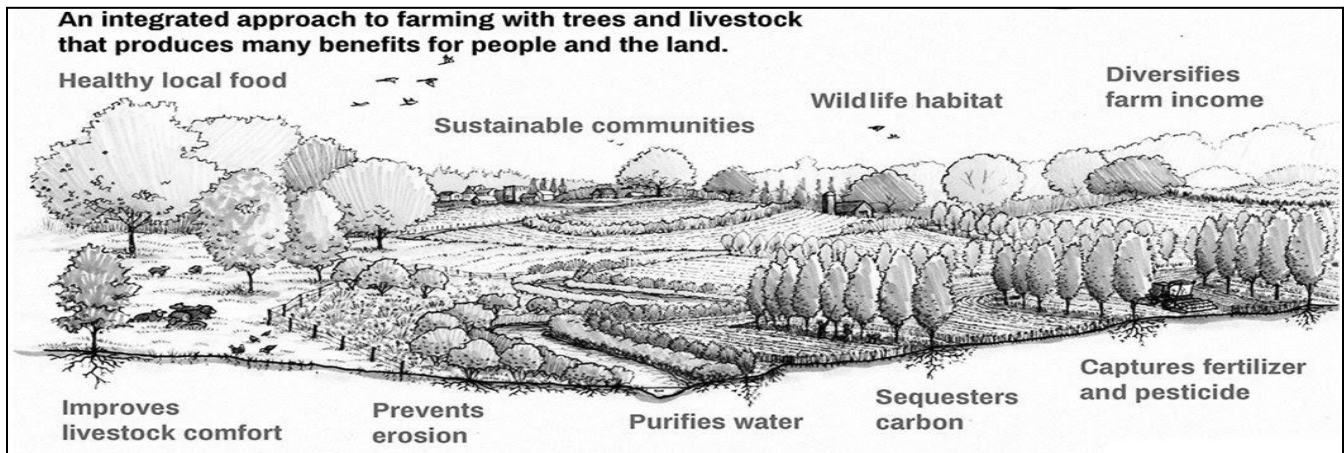


Agroforestry in Michigan - Trees on Farms for Conservation & Profit Michigan Soil & Water Conservation Society - March 7th, 2025

Agroforestry is..

“The intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to create environmental, economic, and social benefits. It has been practiced in the United States and around the world for centuries.” - USDA

“Trees on farms on purpose” - Keefe Keeley



The 5 Agroforestry Systems

Windbreaks
Riparian Buffers
Alley Cropping
Forest Farming
Silvopasture

Key Concepts For Today

Biodiversity
Integration
Perennial Polycultures
Soil Food Web
Closed-Loop Systems
Biomimicry of Succession

Resources for Farmers

savannainstitute.org - aftaweb.org - treesforgraziers.com - midwest forest farming: mwffc.org

Resources for Technical Service Providers

USDA National Agroforestry Center - MSU Agroforestry - University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry

**Natural Resources Conservation Service Report
Michigan Agroforestry Working Group
January 28, 2025**

Silvopasture (Code 381):

- Conservation Practice Standard (CPS), Guidance Document (GD) and Implementation Requirements (IR) published February 2024.
- Available for funding in EQIP for FY 2025:
 - 7 “tree establishment scenarios, \$2.57 - \$38.22 per tree (payment based on plant size, and supplemental measures, e.g., cages, shelters).
 - 2 “non-commercial forest thinning + establish forage” scenarios, \$899 (introduced grasses) and \$982 (native grasses).
 - 1 “establish forage/no thinning needed” scenario, \$251
 - Payments increase for Historically Underserved clients, and in certain counties.
- Early adopters – NRCS participants with plans under development:
 - Osceola Co.; acres TBD; pigs; existing woods.
 - Lapeer Co.; 2.3 ac.; sheep; existing forest.
 - Osceola Co.; 9.3 ac.; sheep; scotch pine plantation to be cleared and replanted.
 - Barry Co.; 11.5 ac.; cattle; existing forest.
 - Kalamazoo Co.; goats; approx. 6 ac. existing forest, 6 ac. existing WSG, 3 ac. old field.
- Early adopters – NRCS employees with Job Approval Authority:
 - Greg White, District Conservationist, Reed City
 - Zach Whitacre, Soil Conservationist, Hastings

Forest Farming (Code 379):

- New to Michigan! CPS and IR published January 2025.
- Likely available for funding in FY26.

Alley Cropping (Code 311): No Updates.

Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391): No Updates.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (Code 381): No Updates.

Agroforestry General:

- Regional NRCS Agroforestry training, week of August 11-15, 2025 Savanna Institute, Sauk City, WI.
 - Focus: Silvopasture, Forest Farming, Alley Cropping