

CATALYZING AGROFORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM



2024 Catalyzing Agroforestry Grant Program (CAGP) Print Application

The Agroforestry Grant Program is an initiative funded by the Edwards Mother Earth Foundation (EMEF). It is managed by Virginia Tech University in partnership with Rural Action, Appalachian Sustainable Development, North Carolina State University, and SilvoCulture. The program provides direct financial support and technical assistance to farmers implementing agroforestry projects. Applicants are selected for funding on a rolling, first come, and first served basis. Projects may receive funding in 2024 or 2025 depending on specifications and planning requirements.

The program will fund agroforestry practices including: alley cropping, urban food forests, forest farming, riparian buffers, silvopasture (poultry and livestock), and windbreaks. It is anticipated that funded projects will be between 1/4 and 12 acres, but all acreage proposals are welcome. General guidelines for agroforestry assistance are as follows, but may vary based upon demonstrated need:

Alley cropping, urban food forests, riparian buffers, silvopasture, and windbreaks

Up to \$1,500 per acre for the first 4 acres

Up to \$1,000 per acre for the second 4 acres

Up to \$750 per acre for additional establishment beyond 8 acres

Forest Farming

Up to \$1,000 per 1/4-acre of planting and up to \$500 per acre for site preparation

Up to 1 acre funded for planting

Up to 3 acres funded for site prep

To enhance shared learning, people who receive support will share successes and lessons-learned with their peers and other interested stakeholders through the ARK Exchange network. Minority, female, Indigenous farmers and tribal nations, LGBTQ+, socially/economically disadvantaged, and/or veteran farmers are highly encouraged to apply. Agroforestry assistance is available to people in all States except Alaska. Virginia Tech requires a W-9 or W-8 for project reimbursements.

Applications will be accepted at any time following the release of this announcement. **Application review for round two projects is April 1st 2024 and applicants will be notified of decisions in May, followed by application consultation.** Rolling applications will continue after that date. If a proposed project is deemed feasible, funding will be provided at a rate suitable to support completion. Unfunded applications will be retained in the review pool until program funds are exhausted. Direct questions to Ian Nichols at Virginia Tech iancn@vt.edu. If applicants do not wish to submit online, applications can also be emailed or mailed to:

Ian Nichols - iancn@vt.edu
% John Munsell
Virginia Tech 304C Cheatham Hall (MC: 0324)
Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA

Application Form (This application consists of 4 sections and 1 budget worksheet)

Section 1 – Contact Information

Name _____

Home Address _____

Town/City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Farm Name (if applicable) _____

Farm Acres _____

Farm Address (if different from home) _____

Town/City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Section 2 – Agroforestry Project Information (15 questions)

For the purposes of this application, agroforestry is defined as 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. Funds may be used to prepare sites, purchase planting stock, rent equipment, acquire and install tree protection, and pay contractors. Funding will not be provided to buy or treat animals, pay for producer time, thin woodlands, or buy large equipment (e.g., augers, all-terrain vehicles, scalpels, tractors). Learn more about agroforestry: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/forestry/agroforestry>

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. What type of agroforestry systems would you like to install? (Check all that apply)

- Alley cropping
- Forest farming
- Riparian forest buffers
- Silvopasture (poultry and livestock)
- Urban food forest
- Windbreaks
- Other

2. Why do you want to apply for agroforestry funding? (Check all that apply)

- Provide shade for my poultry/livestock
- Provide fodder for my poultry/livestock
- Grow timber
- Grow non-timber products (fruits, nuts, or pods, mushroom logs, etc.)
- Reduce soil loss/erosion control
- Improve how the farm looks
- Trade in carbon or water quality markets
- Enhanced biodiversity
- Part of business/supplemental income
- Restore degraded site
- Other, please explain below

3. Do you currently farm non-timber forest products underneath a forest canopy?

- Yes
- No

4. Do you currently manage poultry/livestock underneath trees and/or shrubs you have planted?

- Yes
- No

5. How many years of experience do you have with growing or harvesting non-timber products and/or poultry/livestock production?

_____ Years of experience

6. If poultry/livestock will be in your agroforestry system - how do you plan to integrate livestock into the agroforestry project you establish? (check all that apply)

- I don't plan to work with livestock
- Permanently raise animals in the agroforestry
- Regularly rotate animals between the agroforestry and open pastures
- Turn out animals in the agroforestry when needed to reduce pressure
- On open pastures and/or protect animals from harsh weather
- Other _____

7. How many acres would you like to plant for your agroforestry project?

(Keep in mind the budget guidelines at the beginning of the application. Projects are expected to be between 1/4-12 acres, but larger or smaller acreage is possible.)

_____ Acres

8. List the poultry/livestock, trees, shrubs, and/or non-timber products (e.g. shiitake mushrooms, maple syrup, ginseng, etc.) you would like in your agroforestry project.

9. Where would you like to establish an agroforestry project on the property you own or lease? (Please be as specific as possible and provide images as part of your added supporting documentation, designs are also helpful and can be hand drawn.)

10. Which products do you hope to sell, if any, from your agroforestry project (raw material, value-added) and what is the plan for bringing products to market?

- Sell into specialty and value-added markets
- Use to produce my own retail products
- Personal consumption
- Conservation
- Other _____

11. Where and when do you intend to get tree and/or shrub planting stock for your agroforestry project?

12. When would you like to start preparing to plant?

13. How will you protect your planting?(Please be as specific as possible as deer, livestock, and droughts can cause issues)

14. Are there any special conservation or water access concerns or potential restrictions that may affect the long-term success of your agroforestry? For example, conservation easements or protected areas, limited or no water access, lease arrangements, or rare or endangered species.

- Yes (If yes, explain the concern(s) and your plan for managing these issues to ensure they do not affect project success?)
- No

15. Explain how your agroforestry project will benefit your farm, livelihood, and community.

Section 3 – Peer-to-Peer Learning Commitment (2 questions)

EMEF financial assistance recipients will join a peer-to-peer demonstration network known as an Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARK) Exchange. If you are selected to receive EMEF assistance and accept funding, you must agree to share your successes and lessons learned at least once with other farmers in the ARK Exchange, but not everyone will be needed to share. You may be asked to host or present to a group of farmers, join a webinar, participate in a video blog of your project, etc. and agreeing to do so is necessary to receive funding. We understand some projects, such as those with ginseng, may not be suitable for farm visits.

Are you and your farm willing to be part of the ARK Exchange should you be selected to receive EMEF financial assistance?

- Yes
- No

Would you be open to allowing research on your farm to better understand social barriers to agroforestry adoption, ecosystem benefits, and/or impacts on biodiversity?

- Yes
- No

Section 4 – Background Information (7 questions)

1. Approximately how much of your work-week is currently spent farming crops and/or raising livestock? (check only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> 0-10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-60%
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-20%	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-70%
<input type="checkbox"/> 20-30%	<input type="checkbox"/> 70-80%
<input type="checkbox"/> 30-40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 80-90%
<input type="checkbox"/> 40-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 90-100%

2. Approximately how much of your current annual income comes from farming crops and/or raising livestock? (check only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> 0-10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-60%
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-20%	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-70%
<input type="checkbox"/> 20-30%	<input type="checkbox"/> 70-80%
<input type="checkbox"/> 30-40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 80-90%
<input type="checkbox"/> 40-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 90-100%

3. What was your household's total income before taxes in the previous tax year? (check only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$74,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$19,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000-\$99,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$29,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$44,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000-\$59,999	

4. How do you identify? (check only one)

- Male
- Female
- Neither
- Other _____
- Prefer Not to Answer

5. What is your race/ethnicity? (check all that apply)

- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African American
- Native American
- Asian Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other _____
- Prefer Not to Answer

6. Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender? (check only one)

- Yes
- No
- Other _____
- Prefer Not to Answer

7. Are you a veteran or member of the armed forces? (check only one)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer Not to Answer

8. Do you have a disability? (check only one)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer Not to Answer

9. Do you lease the farmland you manage? (check only one)

- Yes
How long is your current rental arrangement? _____ Years
- No

Appendix – Supporting Documents

Provide a realistic estimated budget based on the cost structure and time frame of the proposed project. Include on-farm items and supplies needed (e.g., trees, tools, contractor fees, etc.). Also estimate the amount of time you will dedicate to the project and indicate an anticipated timeline, or calendar of events. Use the time-budget worksheet on the website to provide this information. Attach at least three digital pictures from different angles of the site where you would like to establish agroforestry. Take pictures that demonstrate key features. Provide a short description of each picture and annotate or mark it to highlight important places and site conditions.

Optional Information

You may attach more supporting documents (in addition to pictures) to your application, such as annotated maps or aerial imagery, existing planning documents, business plans, farm newsletters, promotional videos, product lists, and website links.