



Increasing Agroforestry Adoption and Networking in the Midwest through Targeted Professional Development aka “The Agroforestry Academy”

Michael A. Gold



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University of Missouri

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Agroforestry Academy - Project Team

Co-PIs

- Mihaela Cernusca: University of Missouri, Center for Agroforestry
- Diomy Zamora: University of Minnesota
- Jeri Neal: Iowa State University, MAAWG
- Shibu Jose: University of Missouri, Center for Agroforestry
- Larry Godsey: Missouri Valley College (formerly MU Center for Agroforestry)
- Richard Schultz: Iowa State University
- Richard Straight: USDA Forest Service, National Agroforestry Center
- Dusty Walter: University of Missouri (formerly Center for Agroforestry)
- Andy Mason: USDA Forest Service, National Agroforestry Center (Director)
- Richard Warner: University of Minnesota, Green Lands Blue Waters

Other Partners

- Bruce Wight: USDA NRCS National Forester (retired)
- David Shelton: University of Nebraska

Farmers

- Nicola McPherson: Ozark Forest Mushrooms, MO
- Dan Shepherd: Shepherd Farms, MO
- Mark Shepard: Forest Ag Enterprises, WI
- Penny Frazier: Goods from the Woods, MO
- Terry Durham: Eridu Farms, MO
- Tyler Carlson: Early Boots Farm, MN
- Linda Meschke: Rural advantage, MN



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Agroforestry Academy

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal

- To achieve on-the-ground adoption of agroforestry

Objectives

- Create a regional agroforestry knowledge network
 - ⊠ Train a core group of individuals who deal with land management issues and/or interact with farmers and landowners.
 - ⊠ Facilitate collaboration among researchers, extension personnel, and practitioners, diverse disciplines, departments and colleges, and different agencies and organizations.



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Agroforestry Academy – Train-the-Trainers

Target Audience(s)

- ✓ Agriculture and Natural Resource professionals;
- ✓ Univ. Extension personnel;
- ✓ USDA NRCS, and FSA field staff;
- ✓ Certified Crop Advisors;
- Soil and Water Conservation District personnel;
- Farm Bureau, Farmers Union;
- University faculty (regional Colleges or Univ.);
- Conservation groups (especially w/tree or forest missions e.g., Trees Forever) and similar organizations from MO, IA, MN, NE, WI
- Landowners who are active role models



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Agroforestry Academy – Approach

- ✓ Update agroforestry training manual.
- ✓ Monthly teleconference planning meetings w/project team.
- ✓ Annual face-to-face planning and/or post academy evaluation meetings
- **Conduct Agroforestry Academy (that's us folks!)**
 - Organize and conduct week long “Train-the-trainer” Agroforestry Academy, 2013 and 2014.
 - Classroom presentations, field visits to practitioners’ farms, and a “hands-on landowner case study” exercise, with field visits, in agroforestry planning and design.



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Agroforestry Academy – Project Outputs

1. Updated agroforestry training curricula including release and distribution of the updated 2013 Agroforestry Training Manual.
2. One Agroforestry Academy per year, over two years.
3. A total of 50 professionals trained from different agencies across 5 states, 25 per year.
4. Online learning community network for academy participants and graduates.
 - a) Recorded workshops will be made available online.
 - b) Online directory of agroforestry professionals and practitioners.
 - c) Regional inventory of on-the-ground applications of agroforestry practices. STILL TO DO!



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Agroforestry Academy – Project Outcomes

- 1. Greater partnering across agencies.**
- 2. Broadened agroforestry knowledge base among resource professionals.**
- 3. Increased support by professionals toward landowner adoption of agroforestry.**



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Agroforestry Academy - August 5-9, 2013 Columbia, MO
AGENDA

Activity	Presenters	Time
Day One -Biophysical Aspects and Ecosystem Services		
Breakfast, Coffee and Juice	123 ABNR	7:15-8:00
Agroforestry Academy welcome	Shibu Jose (Director, UMCA)	8:00 - 8:10
	Andy Mason (Director, NAC)	8:10 - 8:20
Overview of the training program	Shibu Jose (MU/UMCA)	8:20 - 8:45
	Michael Gold (MU/UMCA)	
Fill out pre-academy survey / Brief Introductions of all in attendance	Participants and trainers	8:30 - 9:15
Planning and design for agroforestry and introduction to the case study	Michael Gold	9:15 - 9:45
Break		9:45 - 10:00
Silvopasture (cattle/goats)	Dusty Walter (MU) / Mark Kennedy (NRCS)	10:00 - 10:55
Alley cropping / Tree and crop interactions	Shibu Jose (UMCA)	11:00 - 11:55
Catered lunch – Presentation by agroforestry practitioner	Dan Shepherd (Alley Cropping, Farm Diversification, Marketing - MO)	12:00 - 1:00
Riparian and upland forest buffers	Richard Schultz (ISU)	1:00 - 1:55
Agroforestry and biomass production	Shibu Jose (UMCA)	2:00-2:55
Break		2:55 - 3:10
Forest Farming Practitioner	Forest farming: Nicola McPherson (Ozark Forest Mushrooms, MO)	3:10 - 4:10
Forest Farming	John Munsell (Va Tech)	4:10 - 4:50
Agroforestry policy and the view from Washington, D.C.	Andy Mason (NAC – D.C.)	5:00 - 5:45
Break		5:45 - 6:00
Catered Dinner and presentation on Windbreaks	Richard Straight (NAC - NE)	6:15 - 7:15
Q&A Discussion	Gold and Jose facilitators	7:15 - 7:45

Day Two - Socio-Economic, Policy, Markets, Extension/Outreach

Breakfast, Coffee and Juice	123 ABNR	7:15 - 8:00
Ecosystem services, biodiversity and wildlife benefits of agroforestry	Shibu Jose/ Dusty Walter (UMCA)	8:00 - 9:00
Incentives, taxes and finance/economics (cost benefit analysis, Financial Decision Support Tools) , Case Study Analyses	Larry Godsey (Missouri Valley College and UMCA)	9:00 - 10:00
Break		10:00 - 10:15
Practice using financial decision support tools in computer lab	Larry Godsey (Missouri Valley College/UMCA) and participants	10:15 - 11:00
Marketing for agroforestry	Mihaela Cernusca (UMCA)	11:00 - 11:45
Open Discussion		11:45 - Noon
Catered lunch and presentation – Green Lands Blue Waters, Cover Crops and Agroforestry.	Jeri Neal (Leopold Center and GLBW)	12:00 - 1:00
How to design and deliver an effective agroforestry extension/outreach program	Diomy Zamora (Univ of MN)	1:00 - 1:55
Agroforestry Adoption	FarmLink – David Shelton (NE)	2:00 - 2:45
Break		2:45-3:00
Revisit planning and “hands-on case study”– break into groups to prep for case study design exercise	Michael Gold (UMCA) and participants	3:00 - 3:30
Q&A		3:30 - 4:00
Site visit to Shepherd Farm	Travel to Clifton Hill, MO	4:15 Depart
Shepherd Farm Tour, dinner	Clifton Hill, MO	5:15 - 8:00

Day Three - Visits to practitioners' farms: Elderberry, Goat Silvopasture, Log-Grown Shiitake Mushrooms, Wurdack Farm

Breakfast, Coffee and Juice	123 ABNR	7:15-7:50
Vans Depart for Hartsburg, MO from VAG	Eridu Farms - Elderberry	8:00 Depart
Visit to Eridu Farms	Terry Durham, Hartsburg, MO	8:30-10:00
Visit Busby Farm - Lincoln University	Charlotte Clifford Rathert (Lincoln U), Mark Kennedy (NRCS), Dusty Walter (MU) - Goat Silvopasture	10:00-12:00
Box lunch at Busby Farm	Review and discussion	12:00-1:00
Travel to Ozark Forest Mushrooms	Timber, Missouri "The Sinks"	1:00-3:00
Visit to Ozark Forest Mushrooms	Nicola McPherson, David Enloe , Timber, MO	3:00-5:00
Catered Dinner/Tour - MU Wurdack Farm (hardwood silvopasture)	Discuss farm visits over dinner, tour Wurdack	6:15-8:15
Return to campus		Arrive late!

Day Four - "Hands-on case study" Design Exercise

Breakfast, Coffee and Juice	123 ABNR	7:15-7:50
Vans Depart for Martz Farm from VAG		8:00
Field visit to "Hands-on case study" farm in preparation for groups to design agroforestry practices tailored to this farm	Fred Martz, Landowner	Depart at 8:00 Arrive at 8:30
Q&A with landowner	Landowner and participants	8:30 - 10:30
Groups Design Agroforestry Scenarios for "Hands-on case study" farm with mentors (~2.5 hours)	Participants in groups	Return to ABNR Bldg 11:00 - Noon
Lunch and presentation by agroforestry practitioner: Terry Durham, Eridu Farms	Terry Durham, Hartsburg, MO	Noon - 1:00
Groups Design Agroforestry Scenarios for "Hands-on case study" farm with mentors (~2.5 hours)	Participants in groups	1:00 - 3:00

Break		3:00-3:15
Depart for HARC from VAG		3:15-4:00
Visit to MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC Farm) - New Franklin, MO	Showcase agroforestry and specialty crops	4:00 - 5:30
Return to campus		5:30 - 6:00
Catered Dinner. Presentation: Becoming a Forestry/Agroforestry Forestry Technical Service Provider (TSP)	Bruce Wight	6:30 - 8:00...

Day Five - Present and discuss agroforestry designs, Evaluation, Wrap up –

Breakfast, Coffee and Juice	123 ABNR	7:15 - 8:00
Groups present agroforestry plans – 30 minutes per group	Participants (group leaders)	8:00 - 11:00 with break at 10:00
Break		10:00-10:15
Groups present agroforestry plans – 30 minutes per group	Participants (group leaders)	10:15-11:15
Discuss all presentations (Landowner in attendance)	Everyone	11:15-noon
Lunch		12:00-12:30
Final discussion – Where do we go from here – Next steps – Commitment to “Spin-off” trainings and Support from UMCA/MAAWG/SARE????	Michael Gold (UMCA)	12:30-1:00
Educational opportunities – Online MS and Graduate Certificate in Agroforestry	Michael Gold (UMCA)	1:00-1:15
Fill out “Post-Academy” evaluation survey	Participants	1:15-1:30
Award Academy Graduation Certificates		1:30-2:00
2:00 p.m. Academy ends		

MU – University of Missouri; CAFNR – College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, UMCA – The Center for Agroforestry at MU; NAC – USDA National Agroforestry Center; ISU – Iowa State University; HARC – Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO ; GLBW – Green Lands Blue Waters (Based at University of Minnesota)