



Action in Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and Megan Tyminski, editors

Center for Agroforestry Completes 5th Annual Agroforestry Academy

The Center for Agroforestry held its 5th Annual Agroforestry Academy from July 23-28, 2017. Twenty trainees participated in the 2017 Academy including natural resource professionals, educators, and military veteran and civilian farmer/landowners. The highly diverse group came from 7 states in the US and one province in China (MO, KS, DE, VT, OK, GA, CA, Henan province). Trainees unanimously expressed satisfaction with the Academy: 79% rated the quality of the Academy as “Excellent”, the remaining 21% rated the Academy as “Good”. Since its inception in 2013, 128 individuals have attended the Academy, helping to grow our national agroforestry knowledge network.



Photo: Tricia Ward

NRCS Announces November 17 Application Deadline for Financial Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced November 17 as the cut-off date to apply for fiscal year 2018 funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **Funding will be available to address resource concerns through a separate Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment funding pool within EQIP.** For specific questions on the agroforestry funding contact: [Lauren Cartwright](mailto:Lauren.Cartwright@mo.usda.gov) -- Lauren.Cartwright@mo.usda.gov or 573-876-9415; or [Nate Goodrich](mailto:Nate.Goodrich@mo.usda.gov) -- Nate.Goodrich@mo.usda.gov or 573-876-9402; <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/1afee3f>

“EQIP provides opportunities for financial assistance statewide to applicants who have natural resource problems on their land, including concerns associated with crops, livestock, forest and wildlife,” State Conservationist J.R. Flores said. Applicants can sign-up for traditional soil and water conservation practices as well as newer practices aimed at increasing habitat for Monarch butterflies and those focusing on utilizing adaptable cropping systems that increase resiliency.

The November 17 application deadline also applies to the following initiatives:

- On-Farm Energy Initiative; Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative; Organic Initiative; Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project; Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative; National Water Quality Initiative.

Local partners were awarded RCPP funds to deliver conservation projects in specific regions across the state. There are 10 Missouri projects. For more information about NRCS programs and assistance, visit the NRCS website or contact the NRCS office serving your county. NRCS employees in county offices can provide more information about how to apply for benefits offered by NRCS. NRCS accepts applications for all of its programs on a continuous basis, but applications must be filed for these programs by November 17 to be eligible for the next round of funding. Farmers can submit applications at local NRCS offices. NRCS also offers free technical assistance to all Missouri residents.

KUDOS

Well deserved promotions

Congratulations to UMCA's Dr. Lin and Dr. Udawatta on their recent well deserved promotions!

As of Sept. 1, 2017, Dr. Chung-Ho Lin has been promoted to Research Associate Professor.

As of Sept. 1, 2017, Dr. Ranjith Udawatta has been promoted to Research Full Professor.

Summer 2017 Online Agroforestry MS and Graduate Certificate Awards



Congratulations to Jace McCown (top left) who was awarded his Agroforestry Graduate Certificate. Jace is currently a US Air Force pilot in the 1st Helicopter Squadron with an obvious diversity of interests including agroforestry and regenerative agriculture.

Congratulations to Tim Watkins (top center) who was awarded his Agroforestry Graduate Certificate. Tim is currently the Head of Agriculture Operations for ECHO (Educational Concern for Hunger Organization) based in Fort Myers, FL.

Congratulations to Dylan Frentzel (top right). Under the guidance of his advisor, Dr. Gold and graduate committee members Dr. Shibu Jose and Andrew Thomas, Dylan successfully completed his online MS in Agroforestry. His M.S. project title is "Agroforestry: A Path Toward Sustainable Agriculture in New Mexico". He was also awarded an Agroforestry Graduate Certificate. Dylan works at the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, NM.

Congratulations to Hannah Hemmelgarn (bottom left) who was awarded her Agroforestry Graduate Certificate. Working with professors Michael Gold, Anna Ball and Hank Stelzer, Hannah is currently finishing up her MS thesis in Agroforestry during the fall semester of 2017 focused on "An Assessment of Agroforestry Teacher Training Outcomes".

Congratulations to Kelly McGowan (bottom right) who was awarded her Agroforestry Graduate Certificate. Under the guidance of Andy Thomas, Kelly is currently finishing up her MS thesis in Agroforestry during the fall semester of 2017 focused on "Flower production and effect of flower harvest on berry yields within six American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) genotypes".

Recent Funding Award

Udawatta, R.P. and S. Jose. USDA-NRCS and Missouri DNR -- Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) funding to quantify effectiveness of conservation practices implemented by landowners. Timeline: 2017 to 2022. Funding amount: \$119,619.

MORE INFO

Thousand Cankers Disease Video Available Online

Video from the June 13-15, 2017, Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) meeting presentations is now available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVrv1vgCwEkkIBCTMNVJUem4Nxbsvc7Etc>.

This link is also posted online, along with the abstracts, on the TCD website home page: (www.thousandcankers.com) and meetings page at <http://www.thousandcankers.com/meetings.php>.

UMCA/SNR @ Mizzou Tech Roadshow and Mixer

UMCA/SNR research team and collaborators presented their invention “A Novel Continuous Flow System for Blood Type Conversion” at the Mizzou Tech Roadshow and Mixer Tuesday at St. Louis, Aug. 8, 2017. Six teams selected across the MU system to showcase their inventions. Over 100 participants attended, including MU leaders, investors, entrepreneurs, patent attorneys and researchers.

UMCA Presentations at 72nd Soil and Water Conservation Conference in Madison, Wisconsin

Gantzer, C.J., R.P. Udawatta, and S. Jose. 2017. Soil and yield changes by cover crops on a corn-soy bean rotation. 72nd Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference. Creating pathways to Sustainability. Abstract Book. July 30-Aug. 2, 2017. Madison, WI.

Rankoth, L., R.P. Udawatta, C.J. Gantzer, and S. Jose. 2017. Cover crop influence on soil water dynamics under corn-soy bean rotation. 72nd Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference. Creating pathways to Sustainability. Abstract Book. July 30-Aug. 2, 2017. Madison, WI.

Wickramarathne, N., R.P. Udawatta, R.N. Lerch and F. Liu. 2017. Topographic controls on groundwater nitrogen dynamics with grass and poplar vegetated riparian buffers under cattle grazing. 72nd Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference. Creating pathways to Sustainability. Abstract Book. July 30-Aug. 2, 2017. Madison, WI.

Alagele, S., S.H. Anderson, and R.P. Udawatta. 2017. Effects of Biomass Crops, Agroforestry Buffers and Grass Buffers on Soil Hydraulic Properties Compared to Row Crop Management. 72nd Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference. Creating pathways to Sustainability. Abstract Book. July 30-Aug. 2, 2017. Madison, WI.

Rankoth, L., R.P. Udawatta, C.J. Gantzer, S. Jose, C. Weerasekara, and K. Veum. 2017. Cover Crop Influence on Soil Quality under Corn-Soy Bean Rotation. 72nd Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference. Creating pathways to Sustainability. Abstract Book. July 30-Aug. 2, 2017. Madison, WI.



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