Agroforestry Funding Sources

FOREST FARMING, ALLEY CROPPING, SILVOPASTURE

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Cost-Share Programs*

*USDA NRCS cost-share and loan eligibility vary by agroforestry practice and by state
WV eligibility: alley cropping, multi-story cropping (i.e. forest farming), and silvopasture
OH eligibility: alley cropping and multi-story cropping (i.e. forest farming)
VA and NC eligibility: alley cropping and silvopasture
TN and KY eligibility: silvopasture only

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. Funding options are planned based on addressing the resource concerns specific to that farm operation within the context of the state practice standard.

How to Apply: Download and complete the EQIP application form. Find and contact your local NRCS agent based on your location here.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation practices to address priority resources concerns. Funding for establishing and improving wildlife habitat and other environmental factors.

How to Apply: Find and contact your local NRCS agent based on your location here.
**Forest Farming, Alley Cropping, Silvopasture**

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Loans**

**Direct Farm Operating Loan:**
For costs associated with improving profitability (ex: purchasing livestock, equipment, grain, enhancing conservation). Loan max: $400,000.
How to Apply: Loan application form and instructions here.

**Guaranteed Farm Loan:**
- **Farm Ownership Loans:** may be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation.
- **Conservation Loans:** for implementing conservation practices approved by the USDA’s NRCS, such as reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and promoting sustainable practices. Farm Ownership and Conservation loan max: $1,776,000.
How to Apply: Locate loan lender here.

**Community Food Forests**

**Nationwide Grant Opportunities**

**Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF):**
International nonprofit charity dedicated to planting fruitful trees and plants to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the surrounding air, soil, and water. Can cover fruit tree costs for public food forests.
How to Apply: Application found here

**National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC):**
Offer a grant every few years that can fund food forest work.
How to Apply: Check for grants on their website found here.
Agroforestry Descriptions

Agroforestry is a land use management system in which trees and/or shrubs are grown with crops and/or livestock.

Types of Agroforestry

SILVOPASTURE
The deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land. Benefits:
- Creates cooler summer environment for livestock
- Shaded forage is more nutritious for livestock
- Trees drop forage for livestock
- High value timber

ALLEY CROPPING
Rows of trees or shrubs planted with herbaceous crops in between in the "alleyways". Benefits:
- Diversify income streams/flow with staggered harvests
- Trees/shrubs protect crops from wind damage
- Reduce erosion and moisture loss in soil
- Leaf fall adds organic nutrients

FOOD FORESTS
Community garden with multiple levels of food production that interact with each other. Benefits:
- Community access to fresh fruits/veggies
- Create habitat for wildlife and pollinators
- Increase access to environmental education
- Supports biodiversity
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FOREST FARMING
Cultivation and/or stewardship of non-timber forest products (NTPs) in the forest understory. Benefits:
- Creates profitable opportunities for forested land
- Protects native forest botanicals by using sustainable farming practices
- High demand for forest grown products