NRCS Dedicated EQIP Funding Pool for Agroforestry and Specialty Woody Crops

Green Lands Blue Waters Conference

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What is EQIP?

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.

Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

New for FY17 in Missouri

Statewide funding pool

1% of General EQIP Allocation

~ $150,000 +

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

How did we get here?

Increasing producer interest in Missouri as a result of expansion of elderberry production and work of the MU Center for Agroforestry promoting agroforestry in Missouri.

Some successful EQIP contracts with producers.

Challenges with producers competing with "cropland" producers for funding in some parts of the state.

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

How did we get here?

Producer interest and support from the State Technical Committee ultimately helped us justify the addition of the new dedicated fund pool.

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

National support:

USDA Agroforestry Strategic Framework, Fiscal Year 2011 – 2016

2014 Farm Bill supports specialty and locally grown crops

Additional focus on practices effective at addressing GHG mitigation and climate change

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

Practices:

<u>Core</u>

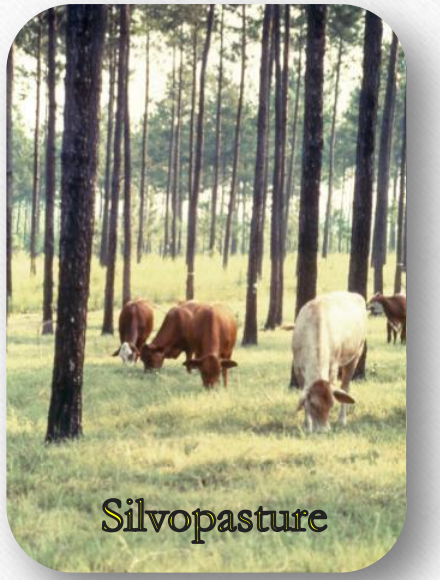
Alley Cropping
Silvopasture Establishment
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
Riparian Forest Buffer
Forest Stand Improvement (Multi Story Cropping)
Tree/Shrub Establishment

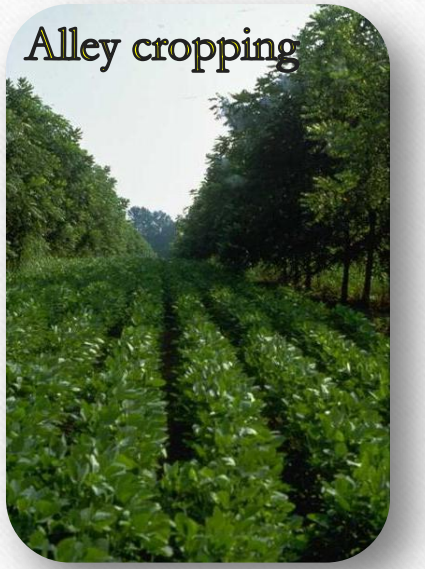
<u>Supporting</u>

Brush Management
Herbaceous Weed Control
Conservation Cover
Prescribed Burning
Critical Area Planting
Fence
Firebreak
Access Control
Mulching
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

Ranking:
State Ranking Points promote implementation of 5 traditional agroforestry practices (Alley Cropping, Silvopasture, Windbreak/Shelterbelt, Riparian Forest Buffer, Multi Story Cropping).





Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

Ranking:

Local Ranking Points based on:

- Planned GHG reduction (using COMET-Planner (http://www.comet-planner.com/)
- Diversity of woody plant species planned for planting
- Historically Underserved and Veteran Farmers

Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment Funding Pool

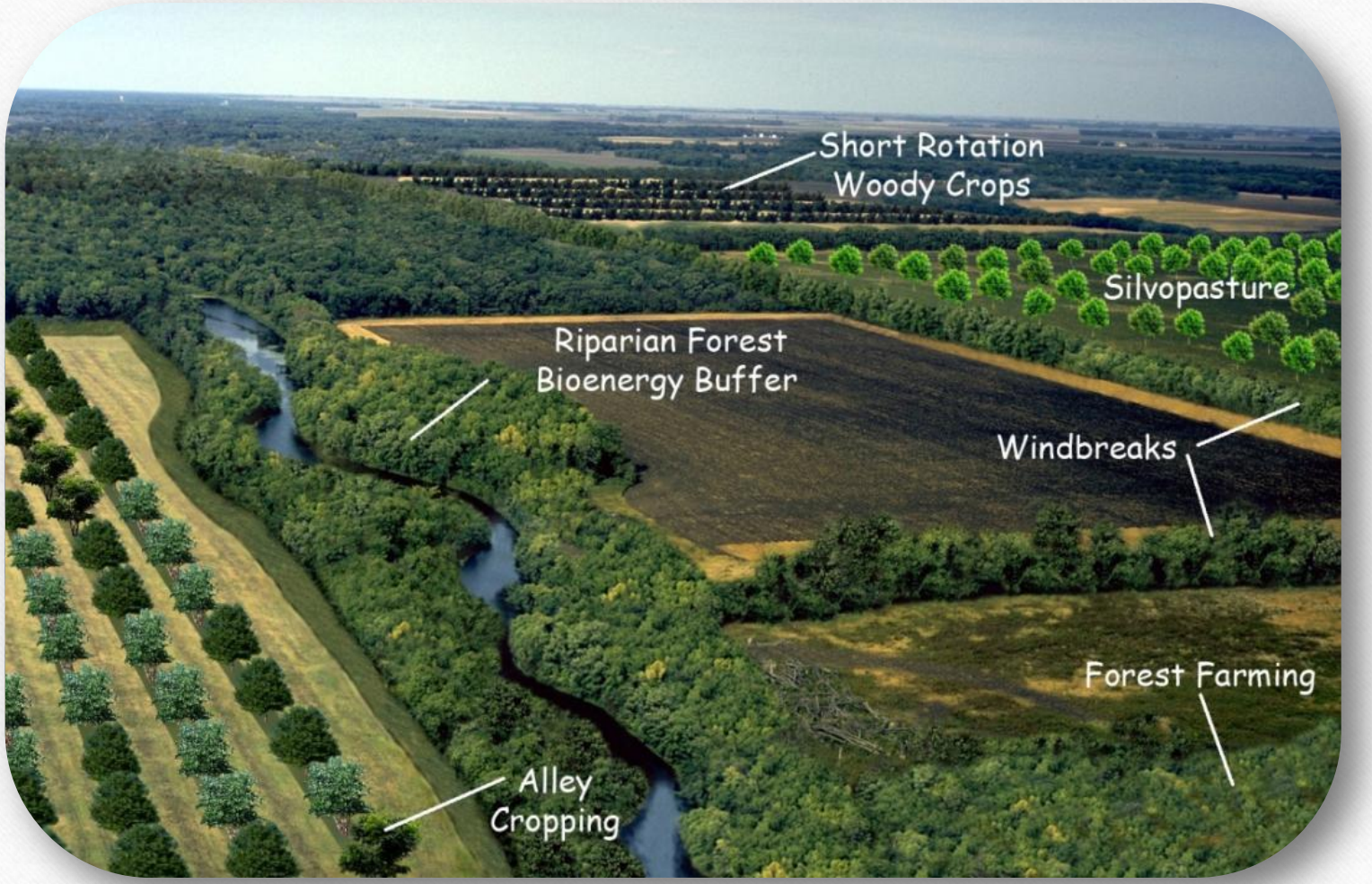
FY17 Application period ended Friday November 18

Currently have 16 applications

Contracts will be awarded starting in February

We will assess FY17 to make improvements for FY18

Questions?


Short Rotation
Woody Crops
Silvopasture
Riparian Forest
Bioenergy Buffer
Windbreaks
Forest Farming
Alley
Cropping

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