



**National
Agroforestry
Center**

Mission

The mission of the National Agroforestry Center (NAC) is “to advance the health, diversity, and productivity of working lands, waters, and communities through agroforestry.” America’s working lands — farms, ranches, and forests — are facing increasing pressures to maximize production for a growing population while minimizing the impacts to wildlife, soils, water, and other ecosystem services on which we depend. The expansion of crops and other agricultural activities is generating a greater need for these production and protective services. Agroforestry — the intentional integration of agriculture and forestry — has tremendous potential to restore and enhance ecosystem services critical to meeting these needs.

What We Do

The Center accelerates the adoption of agroforestry by leading, catalyzing, coordinating, and conducting research and science-based outreach. It is the only U.S. Department of Agriculture unit dedicated to agroforestry and is uniquely poised to provide U.S. leadership in agroforestry research and application. The staff has developed a seamless approach to conducting and integrating research and technology transfer within the Center through the integration of Research and Development and Technology Transfer and Applications teams.

The Research Team conducts, synthesizes, and distills research. It also produces tools and information that support land management decision-making. The Technology Transfer and Applications Team develops and delivers science-based agroforestry information to natural resource professionals working with farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, Tribes, and communities. This information is delivered through publications, workshops, training, and demonstration sites.

The Center’s partnership approach has been critical to its leadership and advancement of agroforestry. From the beginning, NAC has been based on a three-way USDA partnership, encompassing two USDA Forest Service Deputy Areas, Research and Development and State and Private Forestry, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, the Center relies on an extensive network of partners spanning a vast array of universities, non-profit organizations, state and Federal agencies, and conservation districts. These partnerships and networks continue to expand and serve a central role in NAC’s advancement of agroforestry research and technology transfer.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/>