



# Action in Agroforestry

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Michael Gold and  
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## Second Agroforestry Academy heads north



*Photo courtesy of Diomy Zamora*

Agroforestry Academy trainers and trainees from a six state region went to Minnesota.

The second Agroforestry Academy attracted an outstanding group of twenty eight diverse and enthusiastic educators (trainees) drawn from a six state region. It was organized by Dr. Diomy Zamora, University of Minnesota Agroforestry Extension Associate Professor, and his colleagues. The trainers and trainees gathered in Winona, Minn., for the week of July 21-25, 2014 for the intensive agroforestry workshop. The long-term goal of the Agroforestry Academy is to foster the widespread adoption of agroforestry in the U.S. The specific objective of the Academy is creating a regional “agroforestry knowledge network.”

We need to train a core group of individuals who deal with land management issues and/or interact with farmers and landowners. We also need to facilitate collaboration among researchers, extension personnel and practitioners in diverse disciplines, departments, colleges and different agencies and organizations.

Trainers from the Midwest (and Canada) provided detailed agroforestry expertise. Susan Stein, the newly appointed director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center, also participated in the entire Academy. Active learning exchanges between trainees and trainers

occurred throughout the week.

The first three days consisted of morning presentations on biophysical and socioeconomic aspects of agroforestry practices along with afternoon fieldtrips to see agroforestry on farms. In addition, information was presented that will help landowners in developing financial budgets and marketing specialty crops. Day two also included a “hands-on case study” farm visit to the Earth Be Glad farm which does not currently incorporate agroforestry practices.

Day four, an extended fieldtrip, included visits to established agroforestry practitioners’ farms including John Zehrer of Star Valley Flowers and Peter Allen at Forest Agriculture Enterprises.

The Academy ended with an agroforestry planning and design case study exercise which summed up all the knowledge and experience from the week. The “Earth Be Glad” exercise (group presentations and discussions) facilitated experience in the implementation of agroforestry design and encouraged collaborative learning community efforts. The planning helped participants envision how agroforestry practices can be successfully integrated on farms.

Post-Academy feedback of the overall Academy remained highly positive: 76% rated the Academy excellent, 21% good.

Presentations from the 2013 and 2014 Academies will be available on the UMCA website.

## KUDOS

Senaviratne, G.M.M.A., R.P. Udawatta, C. Baffaut, and S.H. Anderson. 2014. Evaluation of a stepwise, multiobjective, multivariable parameter optimization method for the APEX model. *J. Environ. Qual.* 43:1381-1391. doi:10.2134/jeq2013.12.0509

Senaviratne, G.M.M.A., R.P. Udawatta, S.H. Anderson, C. Baffaut, and A. Thompson. 2014. Use of Fuzzy rainfall-runoff predictions for claypan watersheds with conservation buffers. *J. Hydrology.* 507:1008-1018.

### ABSTRACTS

69th Annual International Soil and Watershed Conservation Society Conference, July 27-30, 2014, Lombard, IL

69th SWCS Abstracts [http://www.swcs.org/documents/filelibrary/14ac/Abstract\\_Book\\_\\_FINAL\\_\\_FB7B07FB89022.pdf](http://www.swcs.org/documents/filelibrary/14ac/Abstract_Book__FINAL__FB7B07FB89022.pdf)

Chandrasoma, J.M., R.P. Udawatta, S.H. Anderson, and C.J. Gantzer. 2014. Measured and HYDRUS-simulated water infiltration within areas under conservation buffers and corn/soybean management.

Adhikari, P., R.P. Udawatta, and S.H. Anderson. 2014. Soil thermal properties under prairies, conservation buffers and corn/soybean management systems.

Goyzueta, M., R.P. Udawatta, C.J. Gantzer, and S.H. Anderson. 2014. Cover crops, an alternative practice to improve soil physical properties and soil-water dynamics on Missouri claypan soils.

Gantzer, C.J., R.P. Udawatta, and T. Reinbott. 2014. Cover crops, native pollinator species field borders, and riparian buffers for environmental quality.

Zaibon, S., S.H. Anderson, A.L. Thompson, and R.P. Udawatta. 2014. Vegetative buffer effects on infiltration and runoff for variable rainfall processes.

## Crowd-funded fracking research awarded

More research on hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) for gas and oil is needed in order to fully investigate concerns that fracking might be contaminating drinking water and may result in hormone disrupting activity. The head researcher is Susan C. Nagel, PhD, of the University of Missouri. The rest of the team calls Mizzou or Duke University home, including the Center for Agroforestry’s Chung-Ho Lin, PhD.

The team recently discovered a connection between fracking and hormone disrupting activity in drinking water. The research team was in need of \$25,000 to support and expand their research. Funds would go to collecting water samples, measuring hormone disrupting activity and then testing

it (via water chemical analysis and geochemical profiling) for fracking fluid contamination.

Fracking itself is simply sending millions of gallons of water and chemicals underground to forcibly release trapped oil and gas and has increased exponentially since the ‘90s. If fracking fluids are spilled (which can happen), they can contaminate water sources. Currently, there is not a lot of information on what fracking can do to water quality and health of drinkers — including both humans and wildlife — making this research important to many.

As of June 28, 2014, the team met their goal of \$25,000 via crowd funding. They are now planning their next field study to continue their research.

## Australian Agroforestry Foundation

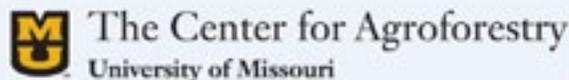
The Australian Agroforestry Foundation (AAF) is a non-profit organization that provides education and support to help farmers and others develop, manage and sustain forests within Australia. To better grow forests, AAF helps reduce land degradation, enhance biodiverse habitats, provide sustainably-produced timber and tree products, and retain the diversity in rural areas.

For over two decades, the AAF team has promoted farmer participation in growing trees with many purposes on their farms. In addition, they have an agroforestry e-newsletter for anyone interested in subscribing for free. It can be found at: [http://agroforestry.org.au/subscribers/members\\_signup.asp](http://agroforestry.org.au/subscribers/members_signup.asp)

### Upcoming Events

**August 21 -  
December 12, 2014—  
Non-timber Forest  
Products Fall 2014  
Webinar Series.**  
Details can be found at:  
[nac.unl.edu](http://nac.unl.edu)

**October 3 - 4, 2014—  
Missouri Chapter of  
the Walnut Council  
Fall Meeting; Lloyd  
Grafton farm, Laclede,  
Mo.**  
For further info,  
contact: Dennis Evans -  
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