Center for Agroforestry Recognized as an MU Program of Distinction

The University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) has numerous existing research, teaching and extension programs that are nationally and internationally recognized. To highlight the recognized strength of existing and future programs, CAFNR has established criteria for Programs of Distinction, a select collection of programs that exemplify CAFNR’s drive to distinction. CAFNR’s Programs of Distinction, together with our academic programs, define our current impact on Missouri’s agriculture and natural resource economies, providing understanding for how CAFNR is addressing challenges facing Missouri agriculture and natural resources.

In line with CAFNR’s new strategic plan, the College has designated seven existing programs as Programs of Distinction. The seven programs are the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute, the Interdisciplinary Plant Group, the Interdisciplinary Reproduction and Health Group, the MU Forage-Livestock Group, the MU Livestock Engineering Team, the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program, and the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry.

The goal of the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry is to initiate, coordinate and enhance agroforestry activities to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of land management worldwide. It is focused on serving as a preeminent global center in agroforestry research, education, outreach and technology transfer with comprehensive programs that encompass ecological and economic sustainability, specialty crop and commodity production, environmental conservation and stewardship, and integrated management.

The center, created in 1998, supports the long-term future of rural and urban working farms and forests by achieving economic, environmental and social sustainability. Interdisciplinary collaboration is one of the most notable hallmarks of the center. To achieve its objectives, the center draws upon diverse knowledge, talent and resident intellectual capacity, and supports researchers located in academic departments across CAFNR. The center’s interdisciplinary research programs work in clusters to create synergy among scientists, enhance the center’s research creativity and productivity, and achieve better integration among diverse disciplines. Linked to the center’s science and research programs are numerous partnerships with landowners, natural resource professionals, federal and state agencies and non-profit organizations that produce an array of positive outcomes. Since its inception, the center has brought in more than $55 million in grants and contracts to support its mission.

Author: Logan Jackson, MU Agricultural Research Center News Strategist
Publications


Employment Opportunity
Caney Fork Farms is seeking a full-time Agroforestry Specialist to assist the Agroforestry Manager in the care of orchards, conservation and wildlife plantings, perennials, and some vegetables. Caney Fork Farms’ mission is to be an ecologically regenerative, socially integrated, and financially profitable farm in middle Tennessee. The agroforestry enterprise consists of 35 acres of chestnut trees, plus apple trees, elderberries, mulberries, raspberries, peaches, persimmons, and pawpaws. Employee housing is available within a 10-minute drive of the farm. More details here. To apply, send cover letter, resume, and two references to ranan@caneyforkfarms.com.

Dig This: Growing American Ginseng on The Agroforestry Podcast
This month’s Agroforestry Podcast episode explores the complexities of growing American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) for conservation and profit. In appreciation of our listeners, we will be giving away two copies of one of our favorite books on forest farming: *Growing and Marketing Ginseng, Goldenseal and Other Woodland Medicinals* by Dr. Jeanine Davis and Dr. W. Scott Persons. To enter, subscribe to the show on any podcast app, and complete this short questionnaire no later than May 15th. Listen now at http://agroforestry.libsyn.com/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regenerative Agriculture, Pollinators, and Beekeeping
5:30 – 7:30pm | May 1, 2019 | Prairie Rivers Network | The Refuge Food Forest, Normal, IL
Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, of Blue Dasher Farm, will lead a lively discussion about how regenerative agriculture practices can improve farm health and protect pollinators and honeybees. Dr. Lundgren is an agroecologist, farmer, and Director of ECDYSIS Foundation. He received his PhD in entomology from the University of Illinois, and demonstrates cutting-edge science for soil health, biodiversity, and nutrient dense food production at Blue Dasher Farm. RSVP to kerndt-picher@priarierivers.org

Nutshell Webinar: Leah Penniman on Black Agroforestry
Free Online Discussion starting at 7:00pm | April 23, 2019 | Led by Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm
During this Nutshell, Leah will discuss how Black farmers have innovated agroecological systems for millennia. Learn how Soul Fire and their sibling organizations are implementing and honoring these practices. Leah Penniman is a Black Kreyol educator, farmer/peyizan, author, and food justice activist based in Grafton, NY. Info and registration at http://www.savannainstitute.org/events.html

4th World Congress on Agroforestry 2019
May 20-22, 2019 | Le Corum Conference Centre, Montpellier, France
More than 1000 delegates and leading keynote speakers from all over the world will contribute to this event. The overall objective of the Congress is to contribute to the progress of agroforestry science and practice in order to bridge the science-policy gap. Major topics include agroforestry and climate change, food security and nutrition, adoption, and policy, with special attention to vulnerable countries and populations. More information and registration at https://agroforestry2019.cirad.fr/
2019 Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop

June 13 – 15, 2019 | Midwest Elderberry Cooperative | The Carver Center, Jefferson City, MO

The Comprehensive Elderberry Workshop & Field Tour delivers the best new knowledge on elderberry from expert researchers and successful growers. New Growers Workshop June 13; Workshop and Field Tours June 14-15. Information and registration at: https://www.riverhillsharvest.com/comprehensive-elderberry-workshop.

2019 North American Agroforestry Conference

June 24 - 27, 2019 | Association for Temperate Agroforestry | Corvallis, Oregon

The Association for Temperate Agroforestry will convene for the 16th AFTA Biennial Conference, this year focusing on Agroforestry for Sustainable Production and Resilient Landscapes. More information and registration at https://afta2019.org/