



Photo by Alita Films

ADVANCING AGROFORESTRY IN THE MIDWEST: HUDSON DEMONSTRATION FARM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Hudson Demonstration Farm is a privately owned, 120-acre agroforestry demonstration farm in central Illinois managed by the Savanna Institute (SI) that employs climate-smart practices like alley cropping and windbreaks in combination with corn, soybeans, and other common Midwestern crops. The farm is one of several run by SI that provides on-farm education and outreach to encourage greater agroforestry adoption, while also illustrating how Farm Bill programs can provide support to interested farmers.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the number of farmers adopting agroforestry by:
 - Providing education and technical support to farmers interested in more sustainable farming practices.
 - Provide guidance on how to access Farm Bill programs like [EQIP](#) & [CRP](#) that can provide financial assistance.
- Support agroforestry research, including efforts to better understand the climate mitigation benefits of agroforestry practices.

KEY SUCCESSES TO DATE



The Nature Conservancy and Savanna Institute's Expanding Agroforestry Production program, supported by the Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities, will create more than 30,000 acres of new agroforestry plantings.



In 2021, the Savanna Institute helped launch Canopy Farm Management, a tree-planting business and nursery to help scale-up regional access to plants, equipment, and services that farmers need to establish agroforestry.

LOCATION

Urbana, Illinois

FUNDING AMOUNT AND SOURCES

Establishment Costs over 3 years: \$318,846 (USDA Programs: NCR SARE, NRCS CRP, NRCS RCPP, Specialty Crop Research Initiative | Lumpkin Family Foundation, Grantham Foundation, Specialty Crop Research Initiative)

Annual Expenses: Avg \$59,527 (including rent), Avg (\$29,527 without rent) (USDA Programs: NCR SARE, NRCS CRP, NRCS RCPP | Lumpkin Family Foundation)

PROGRAM PARTNERS

USDA, NRCS, NCR SARE, Canopy Farm Management, Cathe Capel, Wyatt Muse, Revive Ag, Lumpkin Family Foundation

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



Increase support for over-subscribed Farm Bill conservation programs like EQIP and CRP so more farmers can access federal support.



Develop a network of suppliers to ensure farmers have access to the plants and equipment needed to adopt agroforestry practices.