Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Program
Growing Opportunities Beneath the Canopy

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Beginning Forest Farmers

What is forest farming?
Why support it?

Appalachian Beginning Forest Farmer Coalition

Support beginning Appalachian medicinal plant forest farmers by forming a coalition that provides technical, administrative, and market sales training and improves access to farm resource inventory and plant habitat management services.

From Georgia to Pennsylvania
– NGO and GO network of 800+ beginning or new forest farmers
– ~33% below 40, ~50% are female, and 33% have limited resources
– Focus native medicinal plants and emerging forest grown markets
– Emphasis transfer, training, production, and verification
Partners/Collaborators

Leadership and Technical Expert Team
- John Munsell, Virginia Tech, Project Director
- Holly Chittum, MD Univ of Integrative Health, Project Co-Director
- Eric Burkhart, Penn State, Industry Coordinator, Technical Advisor
- Jim Chamberlain, USDA FS, Technical Advisor
- Jeanine Davis, NC State, Technical Advisor

Forest Farmer Network Leader/Coordinators
- Emily Lachinet, Appalachian Sustainable Development, Southern Range
- Katie Trozzo, Blue Ridge Woodland Growers, Southern Range
- Tanner Filyaw, Rural Action Ohio, Northern Range
- Susan Leopold, United Plant Savers, Northern Range

Extension Network Coordinators
- Bill Hubbard, SREF Director, Southern Range
- Tracy Coulter, PA DCNR, Northern Range
- National Agroforestry Center, USDA

External Evaluator: Nancy Franz, Iowa State
Key Approach(es)

• Indoor/outdoor education programs and stakeholder meetings
• Training and networking for extension agents and agency personnel
• Appalachian Forest Farmer Chronicle
• Mentorship program
• Coalition Clearinghouse on eXtension CoP website
• Seed distribution and equipment share forums
• Decision support
Overall Target Outcome

Farmers
• **300** plan to establish or expand medicinal plant forest farming
• **60** establish new or increase and/or modify operations
• **40** develop contractual relationships with nutraceutical companies

Extension and Agency Personnel
• **60** provide inventory and/or management planning services
What do you have to share?

Forest Farming

Social Media Helps Germinate Interest in Forest Farming
What do you have to share?
What do you have to share?
What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Long-term assessment techniques
- Training methods with emerging technology
- Distributed management approaches
- Mentorship program best practices
Keep in touch!

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