

# Agroforestry Update

## British Columbia Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative

March 2005

### Workshop Highlights Agroforestry Opportunities in the Peace Region

An enthusiastic group of resource managers, educators, first nations, farmers, ranchers, and woodlot owners gathered at the Taylor Community Hall on March 4th to hear a variety of presentations on agroforestry opportunities for the Peace region

Dave Trotter and Lisa Zabek of the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries started the morning session with an overview of agroforestry and examples from around the province. Allan Eagle, District Manager of the PFRA in Dawson Creek followed with a presentation of the agroforestry programs in Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and practical advice on establishing shelterbelts, emphasizing the benefits of blending conservation and production practices on farmland. Greg Lay from Northern Lights College rounded out the morning with a talk on the current and emerging forest product opportunities in the region.

George Powell kicked off the afternoon session with a presentation on the BC Agroforestry Initiative and funding opportunities for agroforestry projects. Jim Forbes spoke on some of the economic considerations for forestry and agricultural production and Evelyn Pereira gave an excellent primer on developing value-added products and direct marketing strategies based on her experiences as a sheep producer selling lamb into farmers markets.

The floor was turned over to the participants for the remainder of the day for small groups to network and provide feedback to the Agroforestry Management Committee. In addition to expansion of current silvopasture and shelterbelt activities in the region, a variety of new niche product opportunities for floral, medicinal and specialty food products were identified. The workshop attendees also identified a general lack of regionally specific information, training and demonstrations as barriers to wider adoption of agroforestry in the Peace. Concerns over high transportation costs to large urban markets and a lack of information on how to move from raw agroforestry commodities to value-added products were also identified as issues that need to be addressed.



Evelyn Pereira outlines successful marketing

#### In This Issue

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Peace Agroforestry Workshop .....                  | Page 1 |
| Cedars and High-value Hardwoods .....              | Page 2 |
| Want to learn more about agroforestry? .....       | Page 3 |
| PFRA Shelterbelt Program .....                     | Page 4 |
| Web Sites of Interest/ Coming Events .....         | Page 5 |
| Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative ..... | Page 6 |
| Subscription and Contact Information .....         | Page 7 |

# Cedars and High-value Hardwoods

## Bring Benefits to Fraser-Harrison Farmland



In many rural areas of the Fraser Valley, there are substantial areas of under-utilised farmland along fence lines, riparian areas, urban boundaries, marginal lands, or areas where machine access is restricted. Landowners have tended to remove trees from farmland rather than plant them, but Fraser-Harrison SmartGrowth is demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of using agroforestry practices to tip the scales in favour of planting more trees.

An innovative agroforestry demonstration project is planting these areas with western red cedar, bigleaf maple, and high-value hybrid hardwoods (walnut, chestnut and oak) in the District of Kent in the upper Fraser Valley. These plantings will provide environmental benefits such as windbreaks, buffers along riparian areas and urban boundaries, and wildlife habitat. Equally important, the trees will create new economic opportunities in traditional and speciality wood products and non-timber products. Cedar bough harvesting for the Christmas floral market can commence about 8 years after the 3 or 4-year-old trees are planted. A conservative estimate of production for 20 trees is \$1,000 (wholesale) a year. A planting of 600 cedar trees could yield a minimum of \$30,000 of cedar boughs per year, escalating as the trees mature. The retail value is at least triple that amount and it is expected that local cottage industries will emerge as more boughs are cut. Local growers can also ship directly to markets in eastern Canada and the United States. Cedar oil production is also an option, as sources

on public land continue to diminish. Cedar logs are also in demand and demand will increase as sources on public land are overexploited. In fact, cedar continues to bring good returns, even when other tree species' prices are low. A good red cedar saw log currently sells for about \$300, and can fetch \$600 for veneer. A planting of 600 trees will be worth \$180,000 to \$360,000 when they reach harvestable size in 50 years. Bigleaf maple trees have value for tapping sugar, as well as for saw or veneer logs in 25-30 years. The value depends on log quality and ranges from \$300 – 500 each. Other hardwood plantings add value to landholdings, and if properly pruned and maintained, produce black walnut or oak veneer logs worth \$1500 - 2500 each, depending on market conditions. The trees will be ready for harvest in 30-35 years, yielding a potential \$1.5 - 2.5 million at current prices. It should also be noted that this value would be reflected in property values as the trees mature.

Because the cost of plant material (up to \$15 a tree) is often the main barrier to planting, tree stock has been made available to landowners in the District of Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Harrison Mills and Seabird Island for this project. Fraser-Harrison SmartGrowth is providing advice on species and site selection, will dig holes with a tractor and augur where possible, and organize volunteers to plant sites. Two main demonstration sites have been identified and other landholdings are being assessed with assistance of members of the Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The project is being co-ordinated and implemented by volunteers of Fraser-Harrison SmartGrowth in partnership with the Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) and two dairy farms. The overall aim of Fraser-Harrison SmartGrowth is to maintain the rural quality of the District of Kent, to encourage trails and greenways and other alternative transport, and to promote growth, development and business compatible with the agricultural industry that is the mainstay of the local economy.

## Cedars and High-value Hardwoods (Continued)

The project is linked to the Small Lot Agriculture program in the District of Kent, run by the Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee, and is also linked to another Fraser-Harrison SmartGrowth project, funded by the Langley Environmental Partners Society, which is planting native trees and shrubs along riparian areas.

This project is increasing the profile of agroforestry in the upper Fraser Valley and the areas planted under the project provide a demonstration for other landowners wanting to become involved in agroforestry initiatives. The project will also serve as a case study for an upcoming agroforestry workshop, and as the basis for field days demonstrating planting, maintenance, pruning, and bough cutting and maple sugar tapping, as well as value-added activities such as wreath-making. The environmental benefits of these agroforestry practices will also be discussed.

For more information on this project, contact Detmar Schwichtenberg, project co-ordinator at [detmar@telus.net](mailto:detmar@telus.net).



Greg Lay, RPF, instructor from Northern Lights College, Chetwynd campus speaks to the Peace Agroforestry Workshop, held March 4th in Taylor.

### Want to Learn More About Agroforestry?

Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative sponsored workshops and information sessions have also recently been held in conjunction with the *Horticulture Growers Short Course* at the Pacific Agriculture Show in Abbotsford (February 19<sup>th</sup>) and the *New Opportunities in Agriculture* workshops held in Smithers (March 1<sup>st</sup>) and Vanderhoof (March 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Contact the Agroforestry Initiative Facilitator ([agroforestry@uniserve.com](mailto:agroforestry@uniserve.com)) if you would like an agroforestry presentation or information session in conjunction with your group meeting or training.

# Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## Agroforestry Division/Shelterbelt Centre

---

### Definition:

“Agroforestry is an approach to land use that incorporates trees into farming systems to accomplish environmental, economic and social goals, and allows for the growing of trees and crops on the same piece of land”

### Current Status:

- Agroforestry continues to be high on AAFC's agenda - A national agricultural land and agroforestry strategy is being developed to address priority agricultural land use, land capacity and land management issues, and to ensure the future sustainability of the agricultural land resource base. Agroforestry continues to play an integral role in improving the competitive position of the ag sector.
- The Division is moving from a regionally focused Centre to providing service and expertise nationally.
- A recent independent study estimated the public good from shelterbelt trees provided through the Prairie Shelterbelt Program since 1981 to be as much as \$600 million and the value of private good to be as much as \$340 million.
- Division staff and resources are devoted to the development and delivery of national environment-based programs. Shelterbelts and other agroforestry practices are recognized as Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) and are being applied across the country as part of Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) which will use trees to achieve measurable and meaningful environmental goals.



### Agroforestry Programs:

- Prairie Shelterbelt Program (PSP): an on-going program which provides technical services and tree and shrub seedlings at no charge for planting shelterbelts, or for agricultural conservation and land reclamation projects in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and north-eastern British Columbia. The program is administered by the AAFC Shelterbelt Centre at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.
- Shelterbelt Enhancement Program (SEP): a \$4-million, five-year initiative (to March 31, 2006) designed to reduce greenhouse gases through increased shelterbelt establishment on agricultural lands across the Canadian Prairies. Through the SEP, the Centre's services are expanded to improve shelterbelt planting success, while reducing costs to landowners. As part of the program, clients are supplied with weed-controlling materials and specialized mulch-application equipment.

### Function of the Division:

The Agroforestry Division uses a comprehensive and integrated approach. The Research Unit, the Technology Development and Transfer Unit, and the Tree Production and Distribution Unit work closely together to create knowledge, technology transfer tools and products, and high-quality plant material. Similarly, the Agroforestry Division operates in an integrated manner with the Directorate, Branch and Department to ensure that agroforestry practices have a role in the sustainable management of Canada's agricultural land base.

### Contact:

AAFC Shelterbelt Centre  
Indian Head, Saskatchewan, Canada, S0G 2K0  
Phone (306) 695-2284;  
Fax (306) 695-2568  
Email: [pfatree@agr.gc.ca](mailto:pfatree@agr.gc.ca)  
[www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt.htm)

## Some Web Sites of Interest

---

### U.S. Non Timber Forest Product Database

<http://ifcae.org/ntfp/>

If you are considering starting a forest farming enterprise or diversifying your operation to include non-timber forest products the U.S. Non Timber Forest Product Database may be of assistance. This database lists hundreds of non-timber forest product species with the goal of assisting with their identification, development and conservation. This free database allows users to search by scientific or common names, products derived from them, the parts used, range and distribution (US only), and whether or not it is known to be harvested for commercial purposes.

In addition to the product database the web site has a searchable bibliography and internet links. The U.S. NTFP website is a free service hosted by the Institute for Culture and Ecology.

### Direct Marketing Guide

<http://www.sare.org/publications/dmrg.htm>

Agricultural and woodlot producers are increasingly seeing the benefits of deriving value-added products from their operations and want to learn more about direct marketing. Direct sales to the consumer can be a lucrative marketing channel for those wishing to capture the full value from their agroforestry production. The online Direct Marketing Resource Guide has annotated listings of information including publications, videos, and web sites dedicated to improving knowledge of successful direct marketing strategies and methods.

## Coming Events

---

### Aspen Regional Workshops

Peace River, Alberta on April 11 - 12, 2005 and Fort St. John on **April 14 - 15, 2005**. For those interested in increasing the value from their aspen supply or forest resources. Field tour and classroom instruction including: tree selection strategies in the bush, demonstration of sawing for value recovery, information on drying for quality, machining and finishing issues, market concerns, plus much more. Presented by Forintek Canada Corp. For more information contact Andy Godden at 780-413-9031 or [andy@edm.forintek.ca](mailto:andy@edm.forintek.ca)

### 9th North American Agroforestry

**Conference** "Moving Agroforestry into the Mainstream" **June 12 - 15, 2005** in Rochester, Minnesota. Presented by the Association for Temperate Agroforestry. For more information visit: [cinram.umn.edu/afta2005/](http://cinram.umn.edu/afta2005/)

### Non-Timber Forest Products Events

Royal Roads University, Centre for Non-timber Forest Products is sponsoring three events on the local and global impact of non-timber forest products on community development and forest conservation:

#### A Future Beneath the Trees Symposium

**August 25 - 27, 2005**

International symposium on non-timber forest products on community development and forest conservation.

#### Buy BC Wild Conference 2005

**August 27 - 29, 2005**

BC industry conference for buyers and sellers of non-timber forest products.

#### Shop the Wild 2005

**August 28, 2005**

International trade show and public exhibition of non-timber forest products.

For more information on these events visit:  
[www.ntfpvictoria2005.ca](http://www.ntfpvictoria2005.ca)

# British Columbia's Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative

The **Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative** was developed by industry and government representatives to enhance and promote agroforestry in BC. The Initiative has a 5-year strategic plan and \$500,000 of funding will be allocated by the Investment Agriculture Foundation to implement agroforestry projects.

The Agroforestry Management Committee (AMC) is working with producers, environmental and community groups, government agencies, educators and researchers to achieve its vision of a dynamic, self-sustaining agroforestry industry. The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations is administering the Initiative on behalf of the AMC.

The participation of individuals and groups of industry stakeholders is welcomed in this Initiative through their submission of project proposals that meet the strategies and goals of the Initiative to facilitate a more self-reliant and innovative agroforestry sector. The four major goals of the Initiative are as follows:

## **Goal 1: Develop partnerships**

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate the economic viability and environmental stewardship of agroforestry systems; and,
2. Foster partnerships among agroforestry practitioners and environmental, government, educational and other interested groups.

Applications are welcomed for projects that involve establishment, evaluation and use of demonstration farms and agroforests. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- On-farm or in-forest operational demonstrations of agroforestry practices.
- Investigations of specific economic and environmental effects of agroforestry systems.
- Development of information notes from the demonstration projects.

## **Goal 2: Increase awareness**

Objective: Increase extension, training and access to agroforestry information.

Applications are welcomed for projects that involve development and transfer of technical information. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Tours of demonstration areas.
- Workshops, meetings or conferences.

## **Goal 3: Link producers and buyers**

Objective: Improve the connection between producers, and buyers and consumers.

This funding envelope accepts and reviews applications for projects that link the various market groups. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Producer and product guides.
- Regional, national and international buyer directories.

## **Goal 4: Develop a BC Agroforestry brand**

Objective: To establish a marketing strategy for an Agroforestry brand identity, synonymous with economically sustainable and environmentally beneficial systems.

Creation of a 'brand' identity will promote higher price points for products produced in Agroforestry systems.

For further project ideas please see the action items identified in the strategic plan at the link below. For 2005, proposals will be accepted on an ongoing basis for projects related to Goals 1, 2, and 3. Funding is on a 50:50 cost-share basis. A portion of the industry sector contribution may be in-kind. There may be a cap on funds available for individual projects. Full guidelines and application forms are available from [www.woodlot.bc.ca](http://www.woodlot.bc.ca).

## **Do You Want to Contact Us?**

George W. Powell  
Project development & implementation  
Tel: (250) 983-5114  
E-mail: [agroforestry@uniserve.com](mailto:agroforestry@uniserve.com)

Carmen Wheatley  
Fund administrator  
Tel (250) 964-8776 fax (250) 964-8422  
E-mail: [cawheatley@telus.net](mailto:cawheatley@telus.net)

## Subscribe to Agroforestry Update

---

If you would like to receive Agroforestry Update or other agroforestry-related information and news, please subscribe to Agroforestry Update. To subscribe by e-mail send a message to [agroforestry@uniserve.com](mailto:agroforestry@uniserve.com) with "Subscribe Agroforestry Update" in the subject line. In the body of your message please include your:

- 1) Name & location
- 2) E-mail address
- 3) Organization, or interest in agroforestry (optional)

To subscribe by fax please send the same information to (604) 556 3099

**Your personal information is secure.** We will never sell, give or distribute your personal information to any third party without your prior consent.

If you have suggestions for future editions of the Update or know of an event that should be included, please let us know.

George Powell  
Agroforestry Update Editor



The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations  
administers the Agroforestry Initiative

Financial support for the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative is provided by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries provide funding for the Foundation.



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Investment  
Agriculture  
Foundation  
of British Columbia



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Fisheries

**The contents of this publication are the sole and exclusive property of the respective authors.  
No reproduction in any manner or any form is permitted without express written permission.**