



# Recommendations to develop an agroforestry Expert Panel Advisory Group (EPEG)

# Support for Agroforestry in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- USDA/NRCS Conservation Practice Standards (CSPs) are a key component for delivery of technical and financial assistance for practice implementation from NRCS to its cooperators
- Not every state in the CBW recognizes all 5 NRCS agroforestry practices, this can affect the financial and technical support the practices receive from the state

## Recognized NRCS Agroforestry Practices by State

State	Riparian Buffers	Windbreaks	Alley Cropping	Silvopasture	Forest Farming
DE	X	X	No	No	No
MD	X	X	X	X	No
NY	X	X	No	No	X
PA	X	X	X	No	X
VA	X	X	X	X	X
WV	X	X	X	X	X

# Current NRCS Agroforestry Practices Credited in CAST

NRCS	Practice ID	CAST BMP
Alley cropping	311	
Silvopasture	381	
Wind Breaks	380	Tree Planting
Riparian buffers	391	Forest Buffer
Forest farming	379	

# Proposed Role of the EPEG

- Evaluate the scale of practice implementation in the watershed
- Evaluate the availability of scientific research data as evidence for the water quality benefits of Alley Cropping and Silvopasture practices.
- Determine whether Alley Cropping and/or Silvopasture are functionally similar enough to any existing Bay Program BMPs to merit crediting under an existing BMP
- Evaluate whether an expert panel is needed to credit Alley Cropping and/or Silvopasture

# Considering CAST Crediting:

NRCS Practice	Practice ID	NRCS Definition
Alley cropping	311	Trees or shrubs planted in sets of single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced in the alleys between the sets of woody plants that produce additional products.
Silvopasture	381	Establishment and/or management of desired trees and forages on the same land unit.

CAST BMP Name	BMP Definition	BMP Type
Alternative Crops	Accounts for those crops that are planted and managed as permanent, such as warm season grasses, to sequester carbon in the soil, C sequestration refers to conversion of crop to hay land	Land-use Change
Land Retirement to Ag Open Space	Converts land area to hay without nutrients, takes marginal and highly erosive cropland out of production by planting permanent vegetative cover such as shrubs, grasses and/or trees	Land-use Change
Land Retirement to Pasture	Converts land area to pasture, takes marginal and highly erosive cropland out of production by planting permanent vegetative cover such as shrubs, grasses and/or trees	Land-use Change
Tree Planting	Includes any tree planting, except riparian buffer establishment, targeting highly erodible lands or critical resource areas	Land-use Change

## Request from the FWG

- Confirm support for convening an EPEG
- Recommend participants to serve on the EPEG
- Provide research and information for the EPEG to consider and evaluate
- Provide input on the EPEG's findings and recommendations
- When finalized, the FWG and AWG would need to approve any recommendation to advance to the WQ GIT