

SARE Professional Development Program Grant  
“Expanding the Agroforestry Regional Knowledge Exchange Network in Virginia”

# Demonstration Planting Case Summary

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## Demonstration Details

- Agroforestry system planted: Multi-functional Riparian Buffer and alley cropping
- Location: VSU's Randolph Farm
- Date: October 16, 2024, second round planted in February 2025
- Volunteers engaged: Feb: youth ages 18-25 first time (about 25), then volunteers the second time (35)
- Species planted:
  - Over 30 different type of plants
  - Hydrangea, pear, apricot, pawpaws, fringe tree, lavender, sambucus, ferns, other edible tree and shrub species. Thyme, herbs, perennial herbs and fruit trees
  - Apple trees, catnip, sage, oregano, basil, azaleas (2 types), four cherry blossoms, bay berry, beauty berry, arkansas black, black eyed susan, lily of the valley, catnis giant.
- Planting methods
  - Companion planting with forest plants and crops
  - Improve soil health to accompany tree growth.
- Configurations
  - 2 acres along a wetland edge
  - GIS map, ecological overview of the wetland from the beginning to now.
- Total plants/trees planted
  - 550 total plants/trees

## Workshop Details

Workshops have since been conducted featuring the demonstration planting, 4 total have been conducted with 15-20 people at each one for a total of 80 people trained on site. One program trained small farmers and landowners in multifunctional riparian buffers. Another two events engaged youth through the Positive Roots program. Youth visited the wetland riparian buffer learning about soil erosion and the need for riparian buffers and also learned proper tree management and planted additional plants into the riparian buffer. VSU SFOP has many additional programs coming up featuring the demonstration planting.