

# Farms which Integrated Agroforestry



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An aerial photograph of a farm landscape. In the foreground and middle ground, there are several rows of young trees planted in a grid pattern, likely an orchard. A dirt road or driveway runs through the center. In the background, there is a farm building with a blue roof and a large white structure, possibly a greenhouse or covered walkway. The surrounding area is a mix of green fields and dense forest. The sky is clear and blue.

# Agroforestry: farming with trees

- Multifunctional landscapes
- Diversify income sources
- Build soil
- Reduce water runoff
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Sequester carbon
- Aesthetic and cultural benefits

Hoch Orchard – La Crescent, MN

An aerial photograph of a large pecan orchard at sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the landscape. The orchard consists of many rows of mature pecan trees. In the background, a large body of water, likely a lake or reservoir, is visible, surrounded by more trees and a road. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

# Five USDA Agroforestry

## Practices:

1. Windbreaks
2. Riparian Buffers
3. Alley Cropping
4. Silvopasture
5. Forest Farming

Pecan Orchard, Shepherd Farm  
Clifton Hill, MO

# 1. Windbreaks

Strips of trees and shrubs designed to enhance crop or livestock production while providing conservation benefits.



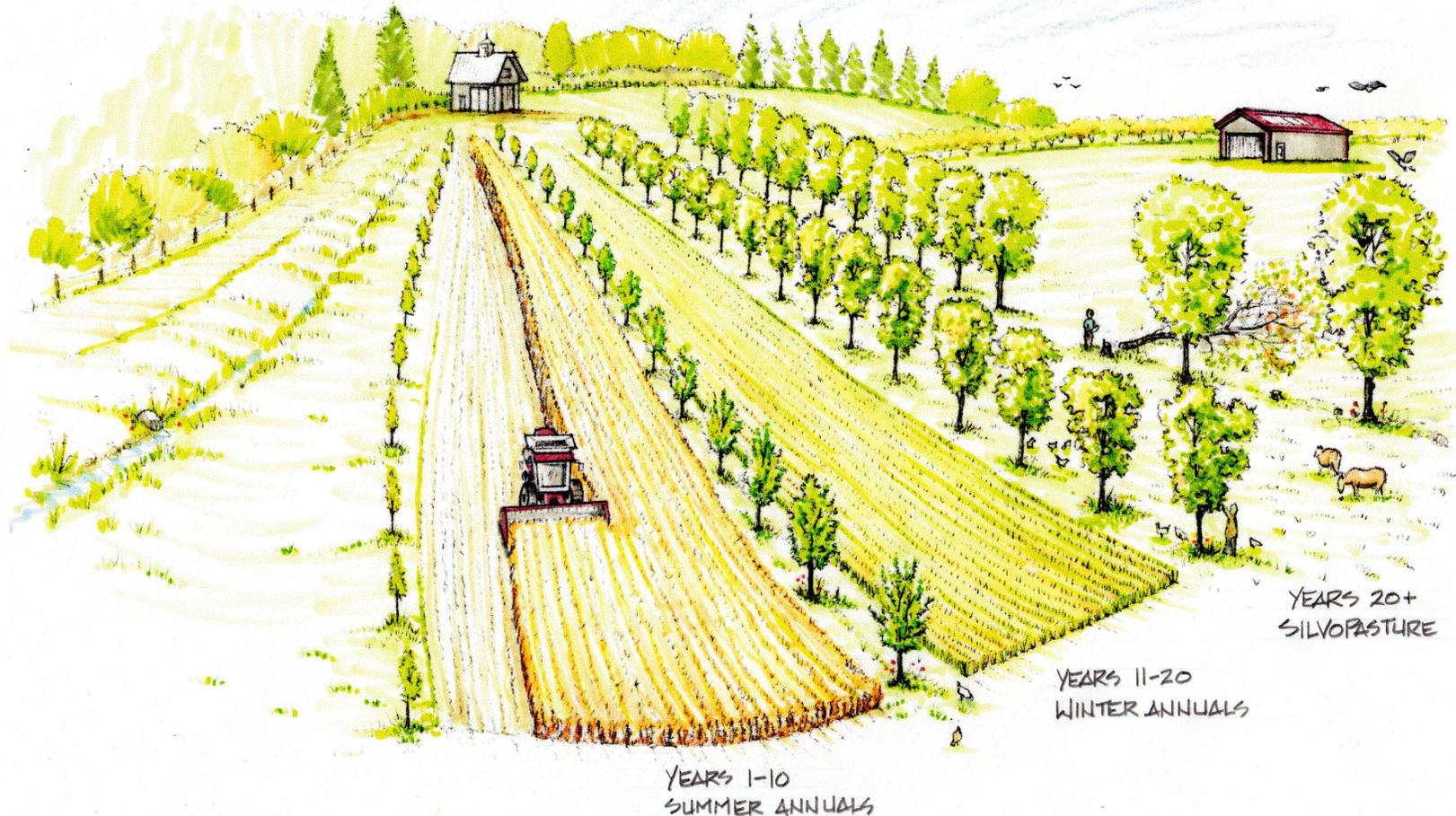
## 2. Riparian Buffers

Strips of permanent vegetation alongside a stream, lake, or wetland.



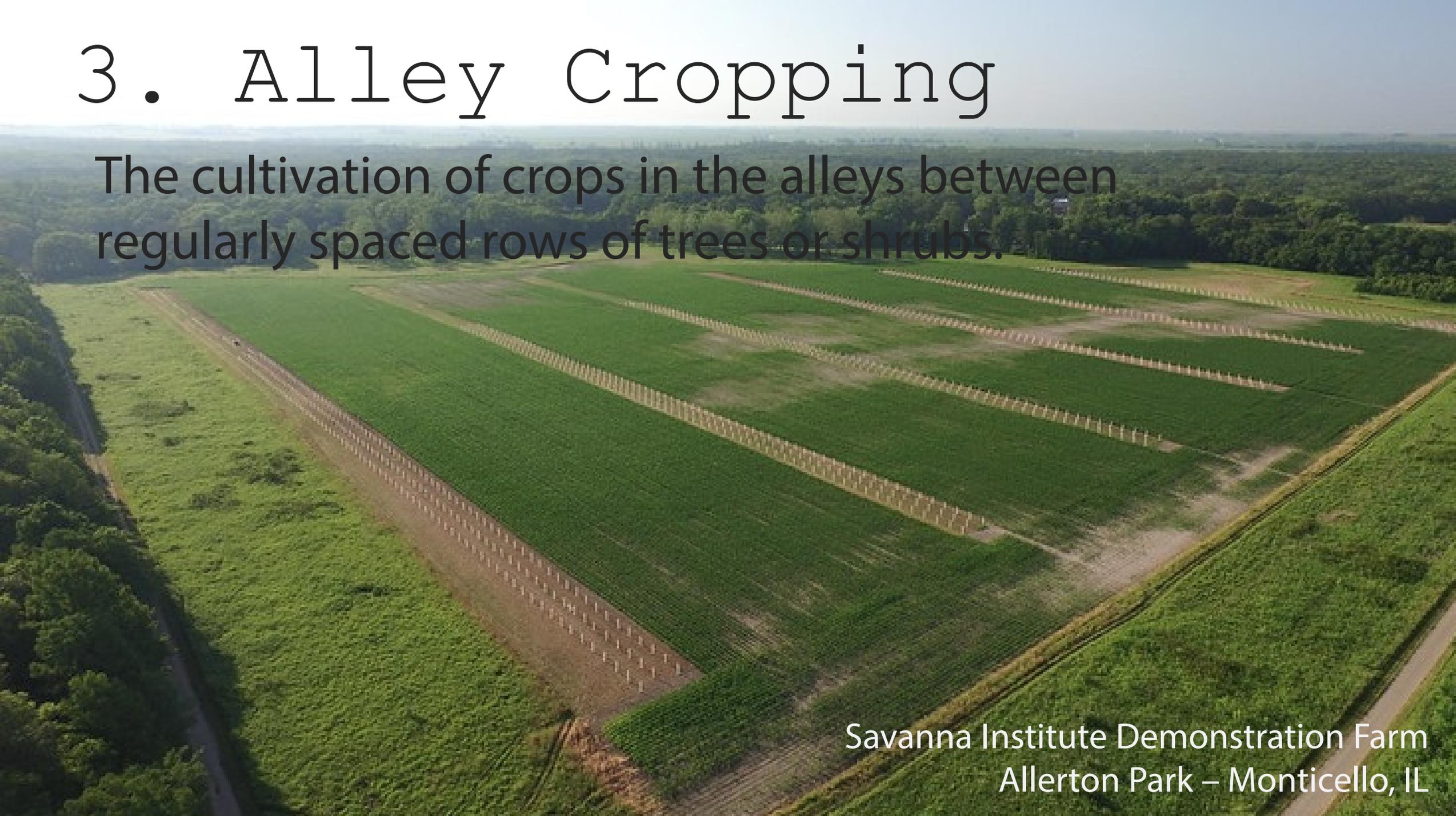
# 3. Alley Cropping

The cultivation of crops in the alleys between regularly spaced rows of trees or shrubs.



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The cultivation of crops in the alleys between regularly spaced rows of trees or shrubs.

An aerial photograph of a demonstration farm showing alley cropping. The image displays several long, parallel rows of young trees or shrubs planted in a grid pattern. Between these rows, there are fields of green crops, likely corn or soybeans, which are being cultivated in the alleys. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and dense forest. The sky is clear and blue.

Savanna Institute Demonstration Farm  
Allerton Park – Monticello, IL

# 4. Silvopasture

The intentional integration of trees, pasture, and livestock, managed as a single system.



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Photo: National Association of Conservation Districts

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Seven Seeds Farm – Spring Green, WI

# 5. Forest Farming

The cultivation of specialty crops under forest canopy.



# 5. Forest Farming



Greg Judy, Green Pastures Farm  
Clark, MO

# Promising Midwest Agroforestry Crops

- Chestnuts
- Hazelnuts
- Elderberries
- Black currants

Twelve “Key Perennial Crop” fact sheets available for free on the Savanna Institute website!



# Chinese Chest

- “Corn on trees”
- Low pest pressure
- Reliable high yields
- Low maintenance
- Harvest: Sep-Oct
- Years to production: 12-15



# Hazelnuts

- “Soy on trees”
- Low input source of oil and livestock feed
- Challenges are machine harvest, winter hardiness and Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB)
- Harvest: Aug-Oct
- Years to production: 5-10



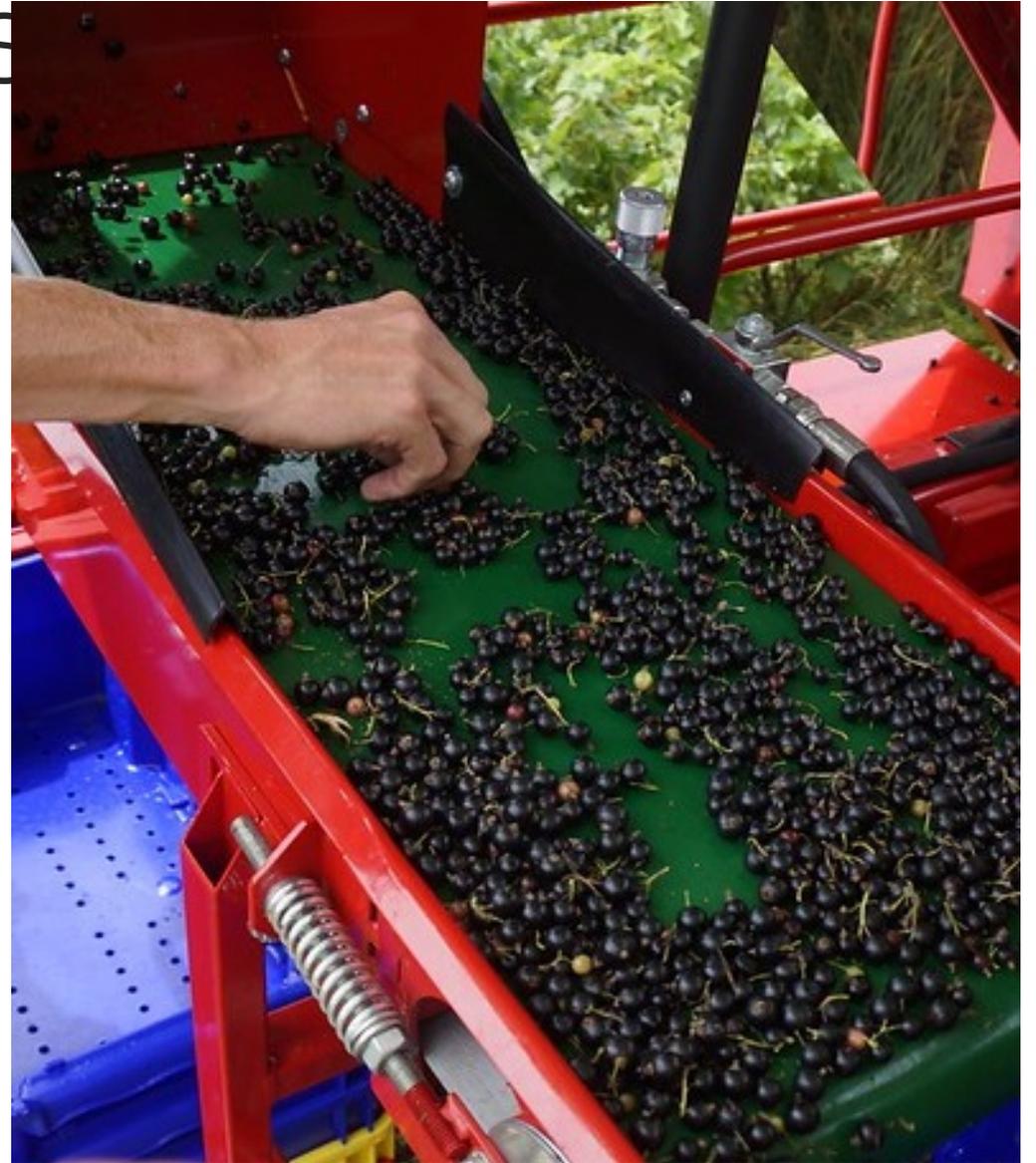
# Elderberries

- Hardy native plants
- Easy to propagate and grow
- Good for pollinators
- Strong market for medicinal products
- Harvest: July-Sep
- Years to production: 2-3



# Black Currants

- Produce well in partial shade
- Ripe fruit keeps well
- Well-suited for machine harvest
- 3x the vitamin C of oranges, 2x the antioxidants of blueberries
- Harvest: June-Aug
- Years to production: 3-5



More resources at  
[www.savannainstitute.org](http://www.savannainstitute.org)!



Red Fern Farm – Wapello, IA