**Supplemental Materials**

**Interview of Administrators of Conservation Programs**

Target audience: Administrators of conservation programs, including those working for agencies such as USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Format: Interviews via phone or in-person meetings

Purpose: Gather information on their recommendations to growers regarding planting plans for specific conservation programs that include trees and shrubs. Included in the questions will be plant spacing (within and between rows), plant type per row (evergreen trees, deciduous trees, shrubs, or herbaceous plants), and specific species recommended. This information will help inform the design of the planting plans for future surveys to assess landowner preferences.

**AGENCY INFORMATION**

Your Name (or skip, for confidentiality): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency you work for: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Length of time working for the agency \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (years)

Your current title: \_\_\_\_

Your role in developing and/or administering conservation activities:

**CONSERVATION PROGRAM TYPES**

What conservation programs are you familiar with that encourage **planting of trees and/or shrubs** on or adjacent to agricultural land? What is the primary focus of the program (e.g., protecting water, conserving soil, enhancing wildlife habitat)? Does the program provide financial assistance to the landowner for the establishment of trees and/shrubs?

* In recent years, has enrollment in the program been: increasing, decreasing, stable?
* In recent years, has landowner interest been: increasing, decreasing, stable?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program name** | Primary focus (e.g. water protection, soil conservation, biodiversity) | Financial Assistance:  Yes / No | Enrollment:  **˄ ˅** stable | Interest:  **˄ ˅** stable |

**PLANTING DESIGN (complete one section for each program)**

**Program Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Given your experience, please describe the typical planting design for trees and shrubs used in this program. Please fill out each line to the best of your ability, even if they are only estimates or generalities:

* Requirements for previous land use:
* Total number of rows of trees/shrubs and overall width of the planting:
* Recommended/Required (circle one) planting spacing (distance between rows, distance between trees within rows):
* Type of trees/shrubs in each row (e.g., deciduous, evergreens, shrubs, fruit, nut):
* Specific species (trees, shrubs, ground cover) recommended by you (include lists, if available):
* Specific species preferred by landowners (include lists, if available):
* Limitations on management activities (mowing, pruning, etc):
* Restrictions of harvesting products from the trees/shrubs (nuts, berries, cuttings, etc.):
* What assistance do you provide to landowners in developing their planting plans?
* (If applicable) What is the payment structure for landowners participating in the program?

**SURVEY PLANNING (assistance in developing landowner survey)**

* What method do you recommend for recruiting, connecting, and maintaining relationships with landowners who might be interested in conservation programs?

Social media, one on one conservations, invitations to programs, connect with nurseries.

* What approach works best for administering surveys to landowners (online versus mail)?

Hybrid – Qualtrics and paper

* Are there any specific types of planting designs/systems you would like to explore with landowners that are not currently offered by programs administered by your agency?
* To what extent have landowners expressed interest in conservation programs that support/allow the following (please describe):
  + Harvesting of nuts or berries
  + Recreational activity, including hunting, hiking, foraging

* + Improved aesthetics/visual quality of landscape
  + Reducing potential damage from chemical drift (herbicides, pesticides)
  + Protecting soil, water, and biodiversity
  + Generating some other form of profit not listed above (excluding conservation payments), if so, what activities

**AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES**

* Are you familiar with Agroforestry practices? (No/Yes – which ones)
  + Silvopasture: No\_\_\_ Somewhat\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_
  + Riparian Forest Buffer: No\_\_\_ Somewhat\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_
  + Windbreak: No\_\_\_ Somewhat\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_
  + Alley Cropping: No\_\_\_ Somewhat\_\_\_ Yes\_\_
  + Forest Farming: No\_\_\_ Somewhat\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_
* To what level does your agency promote or assist with agroforestry adoption?

**ADDITIONAL NOTES/COMMENTS:**