



**IOWA LEARNING FARMS**  
BUILDING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION - FARMER TO FARMER: IOWAN TO IOWAN

609 Bissell Road | 1201 Sukup Hall | Iowa State University | Ames, Iowa 50011 | 515.294.5429  
www.iowalearningfarms.org

**April 17, 2024**

## **Iowa Learning Farms Webinar: Agroforestry Suitability in the Midwestern U.S.**

**April 24 presentation by the University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign’s Sarah Castle will highlight study results indicating best opportunities for conservation and alternative income through agroforestry implementations**

Ames, Iowa – The [Iowa Learning Farms](#) (ILF) conservation webinar taking place April 24 at noon CDT will feature [Sarah Castle, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign](#). Castle’s research focuses on advancing knowledge of agroforestry systems, including silvopasture, windbreaks, riparian buffers and alley cropping. Through her work, she aims to illuminate spatial targeting opportunities for agroforestry, understand its potential contributions to conservation and profitability, and examine the broader policy implications to support the adoption of these practices.

In the webinar, “Social-ecological Suitability of Agroforestry in the Midwest,” Castle will draw on the results of a study assessing the suitability of agroforestry to areas in the Midwestern U.S. to introduce agroforestry concepts and practices. She will highlight key inputs and factors considered in the design of this study, including environmental priority areas, tree growth requirements and socio-economic feasibility, as well as the use of existing data and producer and program administrator interviews. Castle will also discuss the implications for potential carbon sequestration and farm profitability as well as potential pathways to support the effective adoption of agroforestry through policy and practice.

“Landowners looking to expand revenue opportunities and improve conservation outcomes should take into account the suitability of their land for multi-functional trees as a part of a comprehensive agroforestry plan,” said Castle. “I hope that participants in this webinar will come away with a better understanding of the opportunities for agroforestry as a farm-scale and regional solution for achieving conservation and rural development goals.”

Participants are encouraged to ask questions of the presenters. People from all backgrounds and areas of interest are encouraged to join.

**Don't miss this webinar!**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**TIME:** Noon CDT

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

Shortly before noon CDT, click the link below or type this web address into your internet browser:

[https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xtAwWXycQZW8iwtNLz34GA#/registration](https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xtAwWXycQZW8iwtNLz34GA#/registration)

Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter webinar ID: 999 3709 5398

Or, join via phone:

Dial: 646-876-9923

Webinar ID: 999 3709 5398

The webinar will also be recorded and archived. All archived webinars are available on the [ILF website](#), so that they can be watched at any time.

ILF has applied for a Certified Crop Adviser board-approved continuing education unit (CEU) for attending this webinar. Those who participate in the live webinar are eligible. Information about how to apply to receive the credit will be provided at the end of the live webinar.

**Upcoming Webinars in the Series:**

**Up Next:** Wednesday, May 1, *“Urban Wetlands 101”*, with John Swanson, Polk County Iowa, Public Works.

**May 8 :** Wendong Zhang, Cornell University

**May 18:** Matthew Streeter, University of Iowa, Iowa Geological Survey

**About Iowa Learning Farms:**

Established in 2004, Iowa Learning Farms (ILF) is building a Culture of Conservation by encouraging adoption of conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best management practices that improve water quality and soil health while remaining profitable. Partners of Iowa Learning Farms include the [Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship](#), [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#), [Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#), [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), and [Iowa Department of Natural Resources](#), [EPA Section 319 Grant Program](#) and [GROWMARK, Inc.](#)

**Additional Publications:**

**Related Links:**

<https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/>

**Contact:**

Alena Whitaker  
Water and Natural Resources Specialist  
Iowa Learning Farms  
515.294.2473  
[alenaw@iastate.edu](mailto:alenaw@iastate.edu)

**Images:**

Credit photos to Sarah Castle

Photo 1: Sarah Castle

Photo 2: Windbreak and multispecies alley cropping with apple, thyme and pollinator species

