

Workshop Title:

Carbon Farming Q&A

Speakers:

Connor Stedman

Executive Summary:

The presenter led a group discussion about talking topics relating to carbon farming through agroforestry. Topics included how to get to know a piece of land, ways to generate cash flow on long-term agroforestry projects, and tree species that are well suited to sylvopasture.

Main Notes:

The presenter asked the audience what topics they wanted to talk about and then spent some time on each.

What we want to talk about:

Hedge Rows

First steps for land resilience

Keyline

Financing agroforestry systems - long delay for ROI

NB tree species - sylvopasture

Coppice species

Fodder nutrition

Carbon farming adaptation to livelihood.

Resilience on a piece of land.

Site walk.

Getting to know the land.

Layer cake. Look at bedrock story, soil, farm history, and vegetation.

Scale of permanence. Ordering aspects of landscape based on permanence.

Understanding a piece of land within its watershed. Topographic map. Can trace the outline of a watershed based on its ridges.

Convex and concave landform. Different appropriate land uses. On sloping land, trees and grasses are best suited. Accumulating part of watershed can have various soil types - depending on what it is will determine best use. Hilltops - depends on wind factors and soil type.

Understanding a piece of land within in watershed context.

Silt fencing (sediment fencing)

Livelihood / Cash flow.

If on rented land. There is not a huge incentive for capital investment.

Pastured short lifecycle animal is a good option.

Developing value added products that will shape land use. EX: veggie burgers that make a demand for local dry beans.

Strawberries.

Garlic.

Mushroom farming. Can be done in tandem with duck pasture. Maple bush over story.

Financing.

Enterprise budgets. 2-3 pages for in and outs of finances for a farm product.

Richard Wiswall book on enterprise budgets.

Long term returns on agroforestry systems.

Can be tricky to find financing for this. Budgets and loans.

Fodder Nutrition.

Depends on species. Spectrum of woody to grass for animal tolerance for browse.

Mulberries. Promising leaf fodder crop. Regrow quickly from being coppiced or browsed.

Honey Locusts. Legume tree. Pods are high in sugar and yield / acre. Grazing cattle in honey locust forest. Very good carbon sequesters

Willow - medicinal fodder plant. Helps digestive system of goats and sheep.

Affinity from animals for twigs.

Observation of choice fodders for your herd.

Perennial vegetables: Jerusalem artichokes, Forage radishes. Great fodder for pigs.

Funding for conservation can be used to establish agroforestry systems.

Riparian buffer funding.

Multifunctional elements.

Diverse income streams from woodlots.

Horizon habitat. 15-20 years - what kind of environment would we like to see?

Full shade vegetables: Fiddleheads. Ramps.

Regenerative Forestry.

Tree species for sylvopasture.

Selecting species to keep from the existing forest canopy.

If adding trees to the canopy. Either can be done in dense hedgerows or in spaced orchards.

What is the multifunctionality of the trees? Part of the considerations to take.

Shallow rooted trees can be more easily damaged from cattle.

Horses have lots of tree species that are toxic for them.

Coppice + pollarding.

Species that are fast growing. Red maple, black locust, red oak.

Get higher yields than you would with singletree harvesting.

You harvest based on the diameter of wood you need.

Coppice yards. Divide into sections that can be cut yearly, cycling back to the 1st one cut.

Winter is the best time to cut.