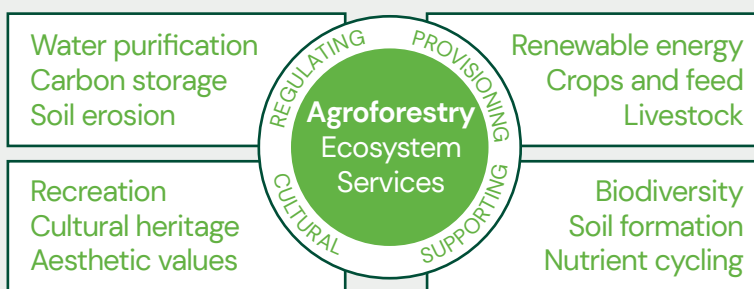


Exploring Rural Ecosystem Services: Agroforestry

This factsheet is part of a series that is exploring the diverse range of ecosystem services are supplied by Scotland's rural sector's stock of natural capital. The topics included within the series are **Agroforestry**, **Arable** and **3D Buffer Strips**. Download the all the factsheets and listen to the Podcasts on the [series webpage](#).

Ecosystem Services are the contributions that Natural Capital provides for human wellbeing and quality of life.

Read more about Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services on the [Thriving Natural Capital Website](#).



What is Agroforestry?

Agroforestry is an integrated approach to land management, incorporating trees into farming systems. Types of agroforestry include: silvo-pastoral: where livestock and trees coexist and silvo-arable: where livestock and arable land coexist.

Incorporating trees into agriculture provides enhanced benefits to businesses, wider communities and stakeholders. They sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity and increase the resilience of land to climate change.



Image: H.Bibby

More Information on Agroforestry Ecosystem Services

Food provisioning	Soil Quality	Habitat Provisioning
Agroforestry can provide additional income for your business. For example, fruit or nut bearing trees can provide income at alternative times of year to your normal output.	Agroforestry increases soil organic carbon, improves nutrient availability, soil fertility and enhances soil microbial activity. It can reduce windblown and water soil erosion.	Trees offer crucial shade and shelter for livestock whilst also providing an alternative food source. They also provide wildlife corridors and encourage pest predators and pollinators.

Find out more about the benefits of woodlands on [NatureScot's website](#) and read case studies of how farmers across Scotland have incorporated trees into their farming systems on the [Soil Association Scotland website: Benefits of Agroforestry](#).



Where to find more information

Listen to the '[Exploring Rural Ecosystem Services](#)' Podcast and the Agroforestry episode with Stephen Briggs from Abacus Agriculture.

Stephen Briggs, an author of the [Soil Association Agroforestry handbook](#) and a consultant for [Abacus Agriculture](#). He is also a first generation farmer and discusses his experience of getting started with silvo-arable agroforestry on his farm.

Exploring Rural Ecosystem Services Podcast Series

Agroforestry
Arable
3D Buffers



Funding is available through FAS for an [Integrated Land Management Plan \(ILMP\)](#) that can include woodland creation. Check out the FAS [Woodland Creation](#) and [Woodland Management](#) webpages too.



View the Soil Association's '[How to get started in Agroforestry](#)' resource page for links to webinars and to download the [Soil Association's Agroforestry handbook](#) to learn more about agroforestry and practical advice on system design.



Join the [Integrating Trees Network](#) and learn from a network of farms, crofts and estates who host events, and provide an informative and supportive network for other farmers and crofters who are considering planting trees on their land.



Visit [Glensaugh, The James Hutton Institute's research farm](#). An example of silvo-pastoral agroforestry, there is information on a self-guided tour that shares practical tips and the potential benefits associated with silvo-pastoral agroforestry.



Read [Scottish Forestry's guidance documents on the creation of farm woodlands](#) on different types of land, including arable, grassland and hill land and the [cost of creating farm woodlands to your business](#).



Visit [Farming for a Better Climate](#) to read their practical guide on [Agroforestry for Beef and Sheep farmers](#) and listen to a Podcast episode on the many benefits of Agroforestry systems.

Below are more agroforestry webpages in Scotland, UK and Europe. They can provide information and guidance on agroforestry and how it can work for your land.

www.agroforestry.ac.uk/

www.europeanagroforestry.eu/

www.soilassociation.org/our-work-in-scotland/scotland-farming-programmes/resources-for-farmers/agroforestry/

www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/agroforestry/

