Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop
Monday and Tuesday, May 22 and 23, 2017
Extension Building, Chambersburg, PA

What makes multifunctional riparian forest buffers different from other compared with riparian forest buffers? How can a riparian forest buffer help meet the production goals of the farm? How do you ensure riparian forest buffers are retained after CREP contracts are up? What can you harvest from a buffer system? How do you design productive riparian forest buffers that also achieve conservation functions? How do you get new and different landowners interested in riparian forest buffers?

This workshop will introduce technical service providers to novel approaches in managed riparian forest buffer systems. The two-day workshop will provide perspective on how to plan for economically and agriculturally viable riparian buffer systems that meet landowners' conservation and production goals. The training will dive into key topics like site considerations, management, plant functions, and multifunctional systems to discover suites of management practices and tree and plant designs that achieve new conservation and production goals.

Audience: Technical service providers, including staff from NRCS, FSA, SWCDs and other federal agencies; state forestry and agriculture agencies; extension; and non-profits.

Day 1

	Topic
9 AM	Workshop welcome and overview
9:15	Introductions (Name, Position, Location, Experience with Buffers)
9:45	**Defining** Landscape Multi-functionality and MFRBs
10:30	Break
10:45	**Designing** flexible buffers
11:30	Lunch
12:15 PM	Identify groups for design exercise and present initial information
12:45	**Site Context**: driver for location, size and structure of buffer efficacy
1:15	**Management Context**: meeting resource concerns, meeting farmer visions (discussion)
1:45	**Plant Functional Attributes:** Species considerations, native/non-native, income potential, effectiveness at meeting resource concerns
2:15	Break
2:30	**MFRB System Selection –** Example Multifunctional systems approaches that meet the demands of contexts and plant functions (discussion)

3:00	**Economics:** NTFP Calculator, labor considerations, and more
3:30	**Value added opportunities** for these species across the farm
4:15	**Establishment and Management Considerations:** Examine what special design and management considerations are needed for these multifunctional systems
5:00	Adjourn

Day 2

	Topic
8:00	**Policy** considerations
9:30	Travel to interested farmer's location for design exercise
10:00	Conversation and tour with interested farmer
11:15	Travel to training location
11:45	Lunch
12:30	Team work to develop proposed plan for farmer
2:15	Teams present plans
3:15	Final discussion: where do we go from here?
3:45	Fill out evaluation survey
4:00 PM	Adjourn

Design exercise:

Training participants will be split into small groups to work together on the exercise. Each group will include people from different organizations or with different backgrounds and expertise. On day 1, participants will hear from a producer in the area who is interested in a multifunctional riparian forest buffer.

On day 2, participants will visit the farm, asking questions based on what they learned on day 1. Groups will begin to develop their designs. At the end of the training, the landowner will be invited to the classroom and each group presents their ideas and suggestions to the farmer. These will be presented using paper, powerpoint, or other methods to show the proposed design. The landowner has the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the participants' ideas. The expectation is that these designs, developed quickly and informally, are a way to learn, experiment, and get feedback, as well as a way to foster a dialogue through which all participants and the farmer learn.