

# Enhancing Rural Economies through Agroforestry: Assessing Emerging Opportunities

Hosted by USDA National Agroforestry  
Center and Interagency Agroforestry Team

**March 19, 20, and 21, 2018**

**Vickie Roberts-Ratliff**  
**Panel Participant**

*Patriots Plaza*

*355 E St. SW*

*Washington D.C. 20024*



Vickie Roberts Ratliff is one of nine forestry professionals featured in the Southern Group of State Foresters' (SGSF) new regional series of videos, *People of Forestry*, designed to increase awareness of southern forests and the many professional opportunities the forest industry provides.

People of Forestry:

Vickie Roberts-Ratliff of Mississippi

<https://youtu.be/I5u4QhPPnzY>

# Vickie's Vision



Always dream and  
shoot higher than  
you know you can  
do. Don't bother just  
to be better than  
your contemporaries  
or predecessors.  
Try to be better  
than yourself.

-William  
Faulkner



# Hidden Treasures

Isaiah 45:2-3

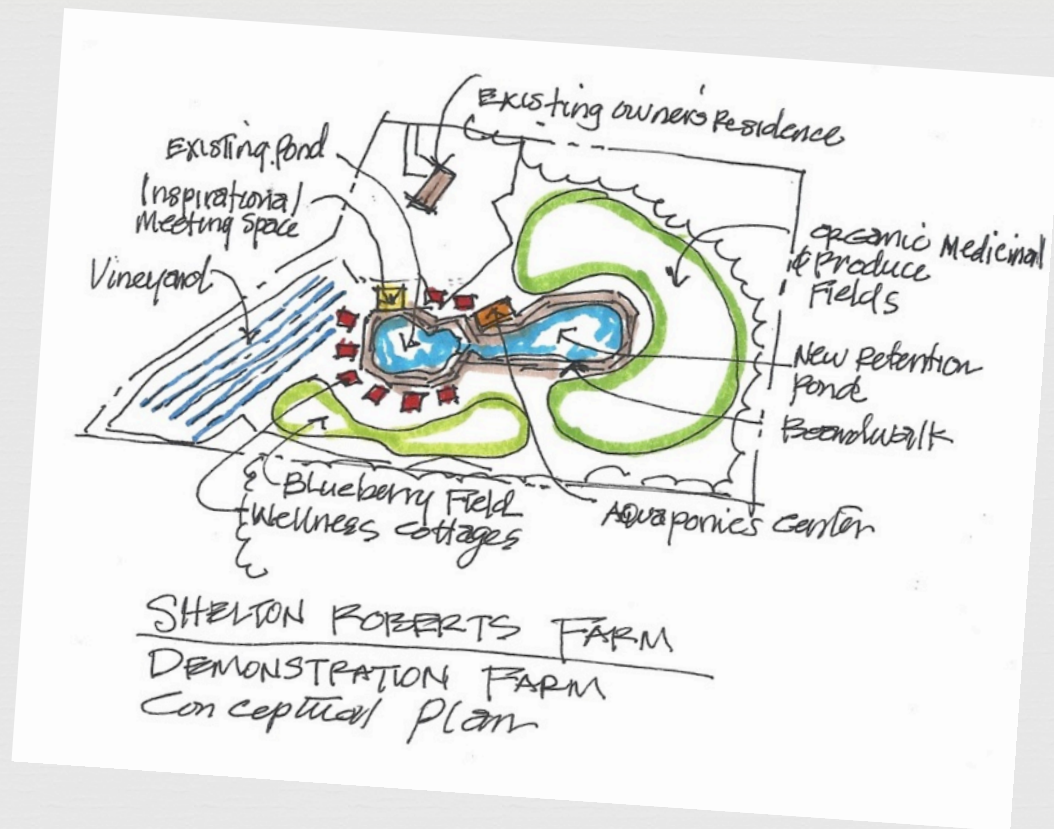


# Agroforestry



- ❧ Agroforestry placing the right plant, in the right place, for the right reason.
- ❧ Agroforestry “Perfect Marriage” Agricultural Practices (Henry)-Forestry (Mary) for Shelton Roberts Properties
- ❧ “Perfect Storm” -*Agricultural Ancestry-Marketing-Strategic Goals for Sustainable Meaningful Economic Development*





# Vickie's Vision

- Meaningful economic sustainable development on 4<sup>th</sup> generation ancestral property that serves as catalyst for sustainable economic development in a 28% USDA Strikeforce recognized Persistent Poverty Community.

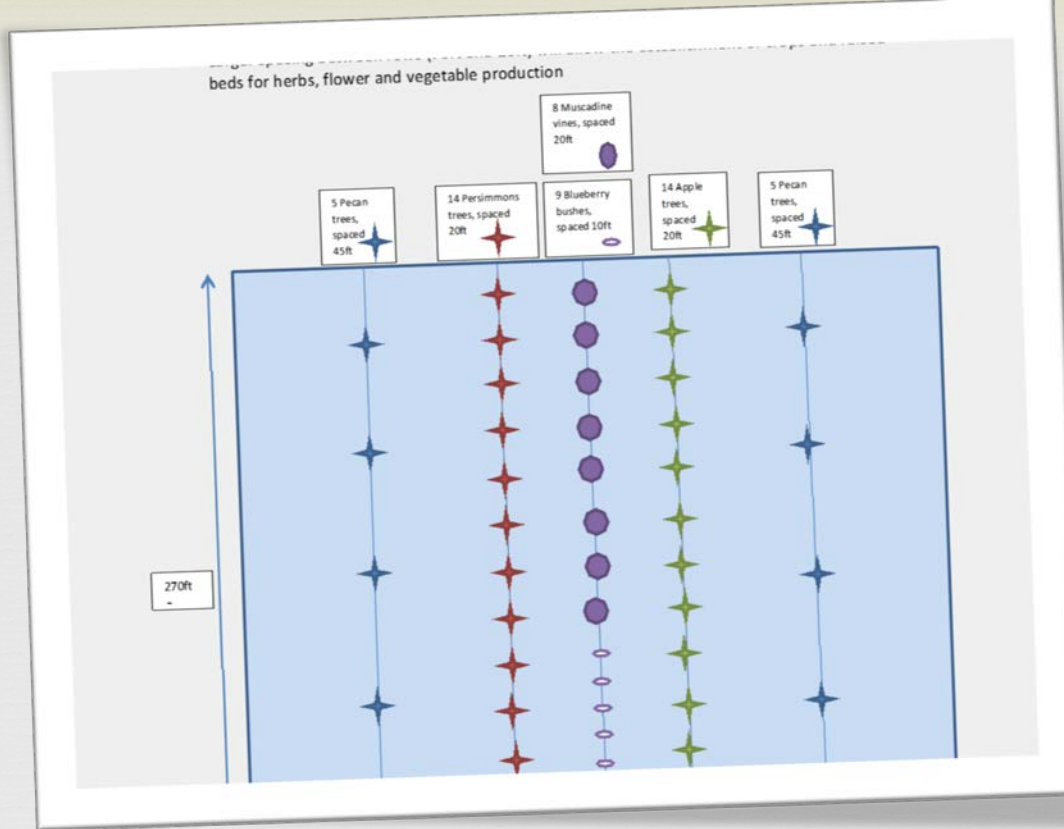


# FSC-Agro-Forestry (Eco-Tourism) Specialty Crop Demonstration Site



- ❧ Federation of Southern Cooperatives (MOA) Partnership Agreement-December 18, 2013
- ❧ Established April 9, 2014
- ❧ Targeting Mississippians, Farmers, Foresters from Neighboring States
- ❧ *“If implemented all over the state, it will bring down the price of fruits and nuts, and as a result will help wipe out obesity in the future.”*

Dr. Giresk K. Panicker, Associate Professor & Director  
for Conservation Research, Alcorn State University



# Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund

Fruit Based Alley Cropping Demonstration Site  
*1<sup>st</sup> Agro-Forestry Program with Fruits and Nuts in Mississippi*  
 Shelton Roberts Farm-Winona, MS



# SRP Agroforestry Demonstration Site

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- ❧ Eco Agroforestry Alley Crop-Fruit and Nuts
- ❧ 11-1-14 ROBERTS/FSC AG FIELD Day
- ❧ CIG Grant application 2-24-15
- ❧ MSU SARE Grant Applications 2016, 2017



Planned Hoop House

Fruit trees

Planned Pecan grove

Roberts Home

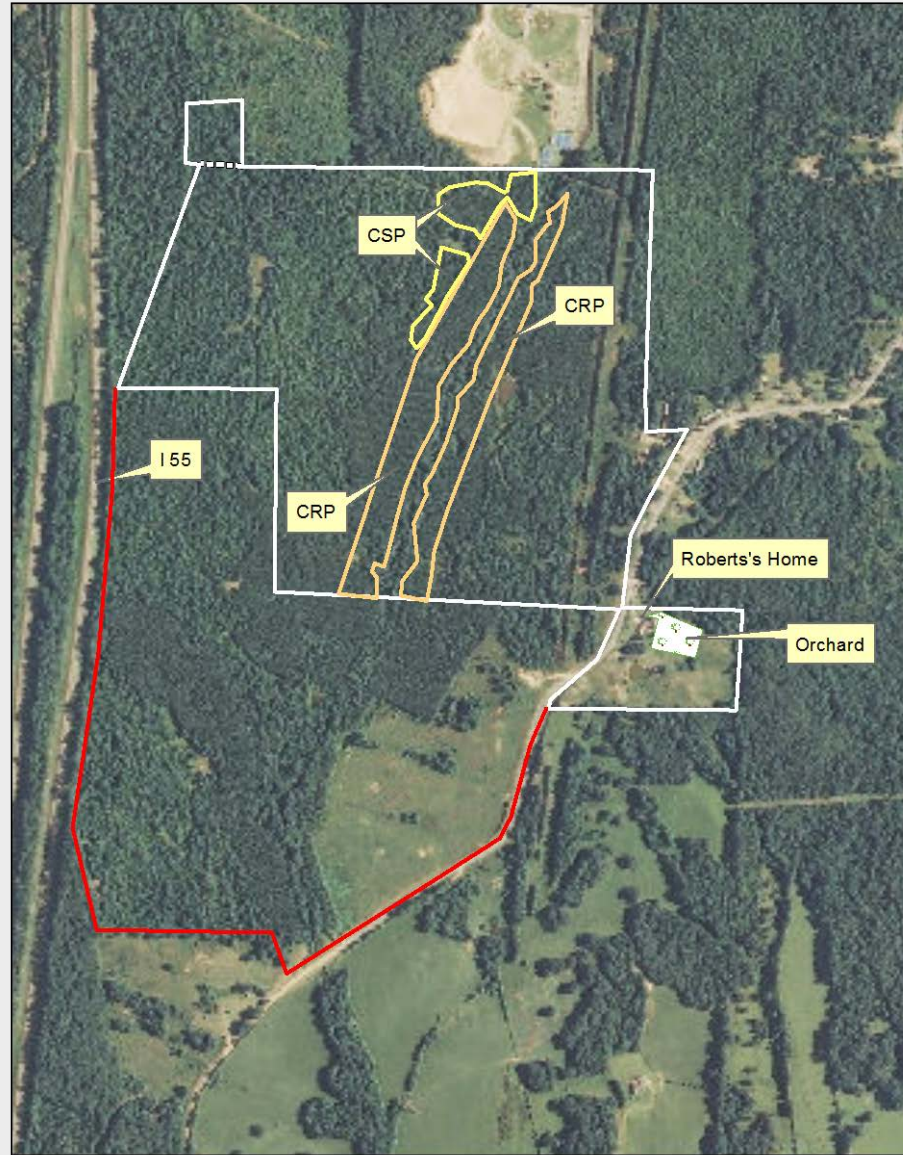
2 acres

2 acres

2 acres

Proposed Pine site

# Shelton Roberts Properties, LLC



CRP - Conservation Reserve Program

CSP - Conservation Stewardship Program



