COMET-Farm Step-by-Step Agroforestry Guide

Tasks:

1. **Navigate to COMET-Farm.com and Create an account**

   a. Navigate to www.comet-farm.com

   b. Using the Navigating COMET-Farm document HERE, familiarize yourself with the COMET-Farm user interface.

   c. Using the Creating a COMET-Farm Account document HERE, create a COMET-Farm account (if you have not already done so).

      i. While you can use any component of COMET-Farm *without* creating an account, creating an account has many benefits. Review how COMET stores your project information and the benefits of creating an account HERE.

2. **Create new project**

   a. Select *Tool* in the upper right corner of the COMET-Farm web page.

   b. Follow the instructions on Creating a New Project help document to begin your project.

      i. For users new to COMET Agroforestry accounting, we would recommend just selecting *Agroforestry* as your accounting activity. You can always add other accounting activities later.

      ii. Note that unlike the cropland and animal ag projects, which can compare current and future/scenario management practices, the agroforestry accounting report instead shows **how much carbon, expressed as CO2 equivalent, is stored over time** as a result of all the species or practices entered.

         1. Agroforestry projects can also *not* be exported like cropland or animal agriculture projects. The COMET-Team hopes to add this feature in a tool update Fall 2023.

      iii. Be sure to select *define activities* to proceed to the next task.

3. **Information collection:**

   a. Data required for COMET-Farm: operation location (state/county), current practices, and any changes in management for the scenario comparison.

4. **Management Location**

   a. COMET-Farm allows for county specific greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting. When entering management details on the scenario management pages, you are tying the management details to that *specific county*. This information is used to select geographically-appropriate calculations and display agroforestry practices used in your area.
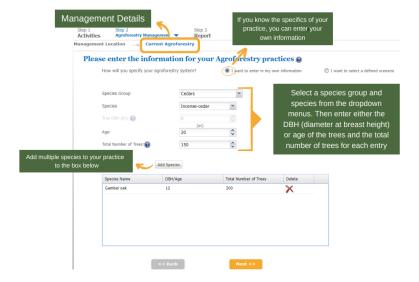
b. Using the navigation window that appears after you defined your accounting activity, enter the state and county of the general area of where you intend to create an operation.

i. When you are done, click the *Next* button

5. Enter current management for operation(s)

a. Option 1 – Enter your own information

i. First select the species group (e.g., cedars, oak, etc.) which filters the available species in your county, then select a species

ii. Next, enter a DBH (diameter-at-breast height) or age, and provide the number of trees for that species. You can add the same or different species multiple times with different values of DBH, age, and number of trees for each entry. Each entry will be visible in the bottom box after clicking 'Add Species.' This information about your species determines each tree's growth rates; DBH or age is used to determine how much carbon is stored per tree.

iii. Note that the "Total Number of Trees" function has a cap at 999.
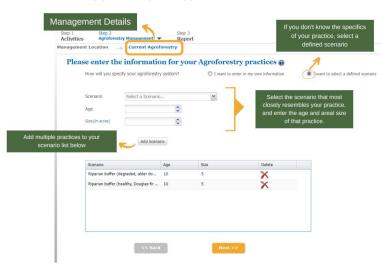
b. Option 2 – Select a defined scenario

i. If you do not know the specifics of your agroforestry practice, select 'I want to select a defined scenario'. If a scenario does not match what you are looking for, then you will need to manually enter your trees.

ii. First, select the scenario that most similarly resembles your practice. The list of selections represent agroforestry most practiced in your area. In the example above, we are examining two different scenarios in north-central California: a healthy, well-stocked riparian buffer and a degraded, poorly-stocked riparian buffer.

iii. Next, type in the age and areal size of that practice. You can add multiple practices visible in the bottom box by clicking 'Add Scenario'.

c. Click *Next.*

7. When you have selected Next, you'll be prompted to either continue to your report or continue editing.

8. When you have completed modifying and adding all species/scenarios to your operation, select *Continue to Report.*

9. You will be taken to the report page. If you have created an account, you can navigate away from the browser and the system will continue to execute the models to run your report.

10. FAQ page about a detailed breakdown of the report coming soon. In the meantime, reach out to appnrel@colostate.edu with any questions about how to interpret your report.

This document was created by Haley Nagle & Andie Conlon, Outreach Specialists on the COMET Team.