



I am a forester who has specialized in agroforestry. My primary responsibilities are to promote agroforestry to the natural resource management community and provide them with educational materials and training.

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Important work skills: Critical thinking and good communication skills are very important. Much of what I do requires that I read and understand scientific research. Next, I assimilate key points into an idea or management recommendation. Finally, I communicate that information, verbally and written, in a way that is easily received by my audience.

Example of a simple question, problem, or challenge encountered in my work: Agroforestry involves the integration or combining of the science and practice of multiple natural resource subjects. Often I need to help people understand how to think about their profession differently.

What classes or course work have been most helpful in your career? Math, biological sciences, and basic economics are the foundation of what I do. English composition and public speaking are what enable me to put that knowledge to good use.

Technology or equipment used in my work: We have two people at the National Agroforestry Center who focus on education. It is impossible for us to travel and meet with everyone we would like to teach agroforestry. We use the internet to provide instruction, both live and recorded. This enables us to share information and answer questions person-to-person.

- **Most Exciting Work** In 2012,
- we sponsored a Great Plains
- Windbreak Renovation and
- Innovation Conference at the
- International Peace Garden. We
- had an international team who
- worked together to identify key
- issues, excellent speakers, and
- incredible field sites to visit. It
- was the first meeting that we
- livestreamed and recorded all
- the presentations.
- **When did you know that this**
- **career would be a good fit for you?**
- My experience is a bit unique.
- I was about 12 years old when
- I decided to be a forester,
- though I really didn't know
- what a forester did. As I focused
- on science and biology in high
- school and entered college,
- the idea of being a forester
- continued to be reinforced.

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