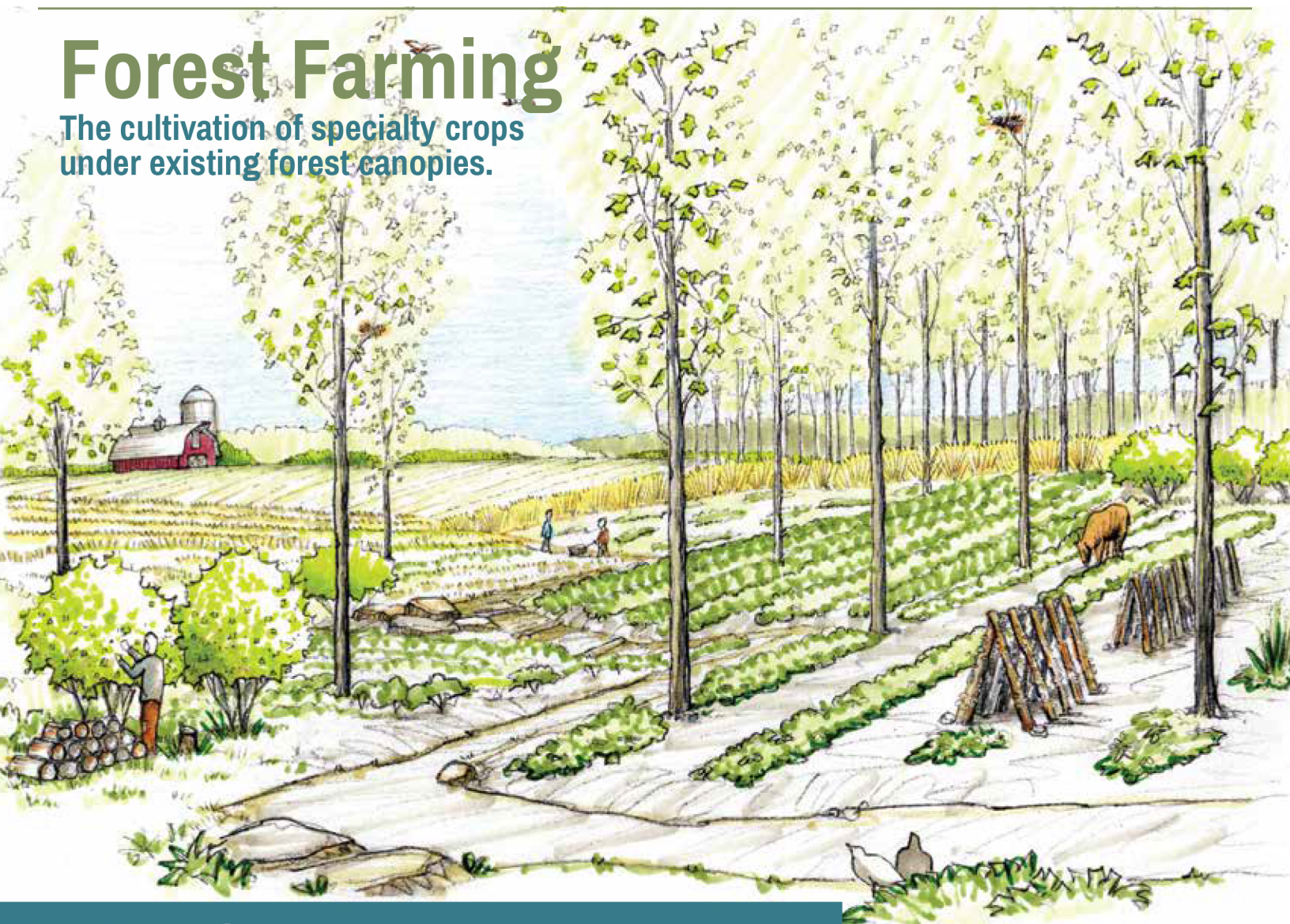


Forest Farming

The cultivation of specialty crops under existing forest canopies.



BENEFITS

Economic

INCREASED INCOME GENERATION:

Farming in the woods can be done without major disturbance and provide additional income in forests typically just managed for timber.

FLEXIBILITY IN MANAGEMENT:

Intensive to minimal, depending on the product and desired market.

COMPLEMENTS EXISTING

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS: Uses resources that would otherwise be underutilized.

Ecological

LOW IMPACT: Does not interfere significantly with the ecosystem services forests already provide.

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT:

Management of forest understory for production can displace invasive species that often otherwise occupy this area.

CHALLENGES

LONG-TERM CROPS ARE AT RISK OF:

Disease outbreaks and pests.

Soil fertility loss.

Crop loss due to poaching or weather.

Shortage of processing facilities.

MARKET ESTABLISHMENT is a time intensive and long-term process.

DETAILED RECORD-KEEPING AND MARKET RESEARCH is required for selected products.