Consulting with Potential Silvopastoralists

Virginia is for Lovers
Inputs:
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Natural Regeneration
- Brush Management
- Prescribed Fire
- Grazing Deferments
- Grazing Ecology based on Preference Values

Benefits:
1. Cooler environment in summer for livestock
2. Wind and weather protection for livestock in winter
3. More diverse understory vegetation providing forage for livestock and wildlife
4. Reduction of property taxes in greenbelt areas
5. Reduced probability of catastrophic wildfires
6. “Open stand” of timber in grazed forest settings can be more scenic than closed canopies
**Inputs**

- Pasture Renovation
- Soil Amendments
- Weed Control
- Rotational Grazing
- Hay Harvest
- Tree Pruning
- Canopy Management
- Tree Protection
- Grazing Mgt. Based on Total Forage Production

**Benefits**

1. Cooler environment in summer for livestock
2. Shorter timber rotations due to forage fertilization and competition control
3. High value timber products resulting from active limb management
4. Shaded, cool season forage plants can be more nutritious for livestock
5. Diversification of income streams spreads out market risk and increases income opportunities
6. Greater plant nutrient uptake efficiencies – the deep tree roots acquire nutrients from a greater range of the soil strata
Diagram #3

Inputs

- Monitor Ground Cover
- Monitor Soil Moisture
- Fence
- Only Short-Term Access Provided
- Defer Site When Wet
- Protect Sensitive, Valuable Trees

Benefits/Effects

1. Cooler environment in summer for livestock
2. Wind and weather protection for livestock in winter
3. Low quality roughage available for dry cows when carefully managed
4. Ground cover can be maintained and serious compaction avoided if site is briefly utilized only when the soil condition is dry or frozen
EXTENDED

Turning Cattle in the Woods

- Cooler environment in summer for livestock
- Reduced timber value due to physical damage and increased tree disease due to root damage
- Tree mortality (species dependent) with high density livestock stocking
- Diminished or eliminated regeneration of high quality trees
- Transport of pasture nutrients to forested, loafing areas
- Concentration of livestock parasites, bacteria, and disease organisms
- Degraded understory and resultant increase in erosion

Long-Term, Uncontrolled Access
Nut-Tree / CSG Silvopasture Management
Establishment Methods and Issues
Reasons to Incorporate Silvopasture into a Farming / Ranching Operation