How Much Land is Suitable in the Northeast

And, How to Evaluate It

Nancy Glazier, Small Farms
Great taste, less filling...
Silvaculture, grazing: The “artful application of science”, so silvopasture is “fine art”.
Silvopasture: Value-Added Products

- Products of trees
- Tree products+
- Livestock+
  - Local food movement
- Forage+
- = Economic impact!
Silvopasture Pressures

• Urban/suburban encroachment
• Traditional agriculture
• Grape industry
• We need to hang on to our forests!
Silvopasture Considerations

- Fence
- Water
  - Stream access?
  - Pond?
  - Well is costly, neighbor?

Power source?
Silvopasture Considerations

- Landowner management
  - Soil compaction
  - Debarking of trees
  - Trampling and browsing of regeneration
  - Poisonous plants
Silvopasture Considerations

- What’s easier?
  - Pasture -> Forest
  - Forest -> Pasture
So, how many acres of pasture in NY?

20,100,000 acres
So, how many acres of forests in NY?

14,100,000 acres*
Yates County Statistics
Yates County Forest Statistics

• Yates agriculture: 126,118 acres of agricultural land
• 20,000 acres of forests with productive soils
• x 50 out of 62 counties in NY
• Potential = 1,000,000 acres
• Can we estimate “fine art”? 
Huge Potential in the Northeast!
Silvopasture Considerations

• Obviously not all suited or available to SP!
• Quality, quantity
• Patience! Long-term commitment
• Must fit both practices simultaneously
• Need to grow slowly - infrastructure!
Plant Selection

- Hardwoods vs. softwoods
- Evergreen vs. deciduous
- Forage selection
Silvopasture Evaluation

- Edge effect
Silvopasture Evaluation

• Stay away from:
  • Steep slopes
  • Poor soils
Silvopasture Evaluations

- Management level – written plan!
- Knowledge level
- Accessibility
  - Livestock and people
  - Equipment
Silvopasture Resources

- Conference Posting: Forest Connect website
- Internet
- Look around the room!
Questions?
What are the most important silvopasture insights you have gotten here?

What would you like to see happen in the next year to help implement or develop silvopasturing in the Northeast?