What Every Woodland Manager Needs to Know about Grazing

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Components of Grazing Systems

- Forages species suitable for grazing
- Animal species suitable for Silvopasture
Forages of the Northeastern US

- Native Plant Communities of the region include very few herbaceous species suited for grazing livestock
Other Regions

- Native Forage Species are part of the Forest Understory

Longleaf Pine Savannah

Forested Regions of the Rocky Mountains
Introduced Forage Species of the Northeast

- Cool season Grasses and Legumes
  - Orchard grass
  - Smooth Brome
  - Ryegrasses
  - Fescues
  - Clovers
  - Trifoils
Introduced Forage Species of the Northeast

- Naturalized species
- Typically the soils already contain seed to establish a grass stand
Livestock Species for Silvopasture

- **Meat production**
  - Most suited

- **Fiber Production**
  - Debris can contaminate the wool/hair

- **Dairy Production**
  - Needs to be in close proximity to milk barn
Livestock Species for Silvopasture

- Goats
- Sheep
- Cattle
- Others
Livestock graze/browse behavior

- **Goats** – Forbs, Woody, Grasses
- **Sheep** – Forbs, Grasses, Woody
- **Cattle** – Grasses, Forbs
- **Horses** – Grasses
Other Livestock considerations

- Browsing
- Girdling
- Stomp grounds
- Rutting
- Plant toxicities
Grazing Management

• Rotational Grazing with pastures sized based on forage quantity
• Develop pasture with similar soils, aspect and management
• Maximum of 7 days of grazing in each pasture
Grazing infrastructure

- Fences
- Water
- Shelter
Fences

- No matter how good the forage they want to be on the other side of the fence.
Water

• 5 - 15 gallons per day per head depending on species
Shelter

• Protection from elements varies with livestock species
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