

**FACT**



# **Converting Woodland to Silvopasture**

***Part 2: Thinning, Clearing, and Establishing Forage & Fodder***

# Introductions



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that works to ensure that all food-producing animals are raised in a humane and healthy manner.



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FACT's Humane Farming Program Team  
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Website: [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer)

## **FACT's services to support livestock and poultry farmers include:**

- Conference scholarships (ongoing)
- Customized handouts (ongoing)
- Free webinars (ongoing)
- Fund-a-Farmer Grants (not currently accepting applications)
- Humane Farming Mentorship Program (not currently accepting applications)
- Financial and Business Training (not currently accepting applications)

# Our Presenter



Steve Gabriel

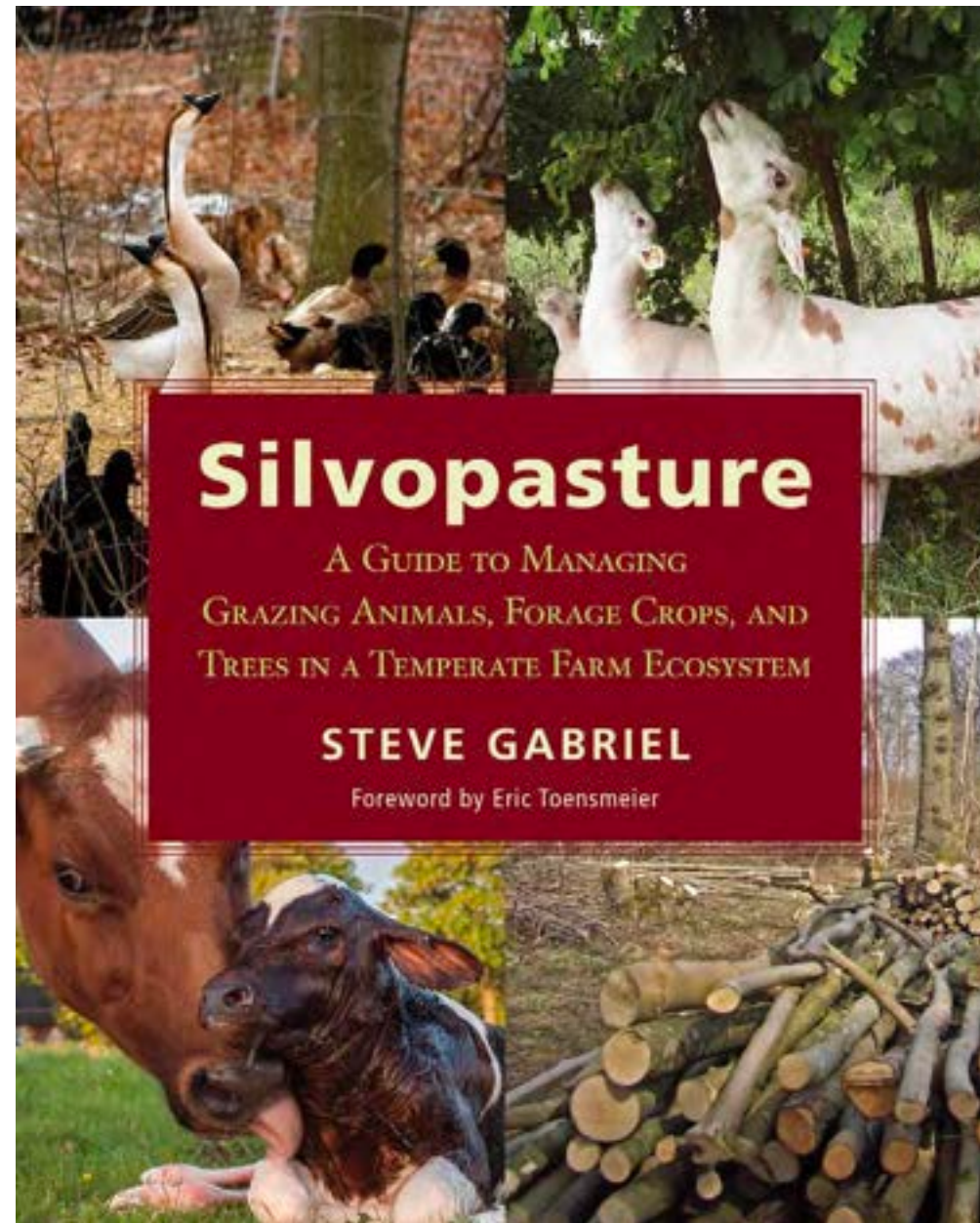
Wellspring Forest Farm  
Cornell Small Farms Program

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THANKS  
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# Woodland Conversion to Silvopasture, Part 2



[www.SilvopastureBook.com](http://www.SilvopastureBook.com)

# FACT's Silvopasture Webinars with Steve Gabriel

In October and November 2020, FACT (Food Animal Concerns Trust) hosted a three-part webinar series with silvopasture expert Steve Gabriel, in addition to several additional webinars. We are glad to provide access to these sessions for interested farmers and ranchers.

## WEBINARS

**Part 1: Designing Silvopasture Plantings**

**Part 2: Why Trees Die in Silvopasture (and how you can help save them!)**

**Part 3: Choosing the Right Animal, for the Right Place, at the Right Time**

**Trees for Livestock Food and Medicine** (*originally presented in March 2020*)

**Water Management for Pasture Grazing Systems** (*originally presented in March 2021*)

If you are experience any technical difficulties accessing the recordings above, you may also find them on **FACT's YouTube channel**. In addition to **webinars**, FACT also provides **grants**, **scholarships** and a **mentorship program** for livestock and poultry farmers who wish to raise their animals on well-managed pasture. To receive news and notifications about all of FACT's farmer services, please subscribe to our newsletter below.

<https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/steve-gabriel>

HOME

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ONLINE COURSES & EVENTS

RESOURCES

VIDEO, PODCASTS, MEDIA

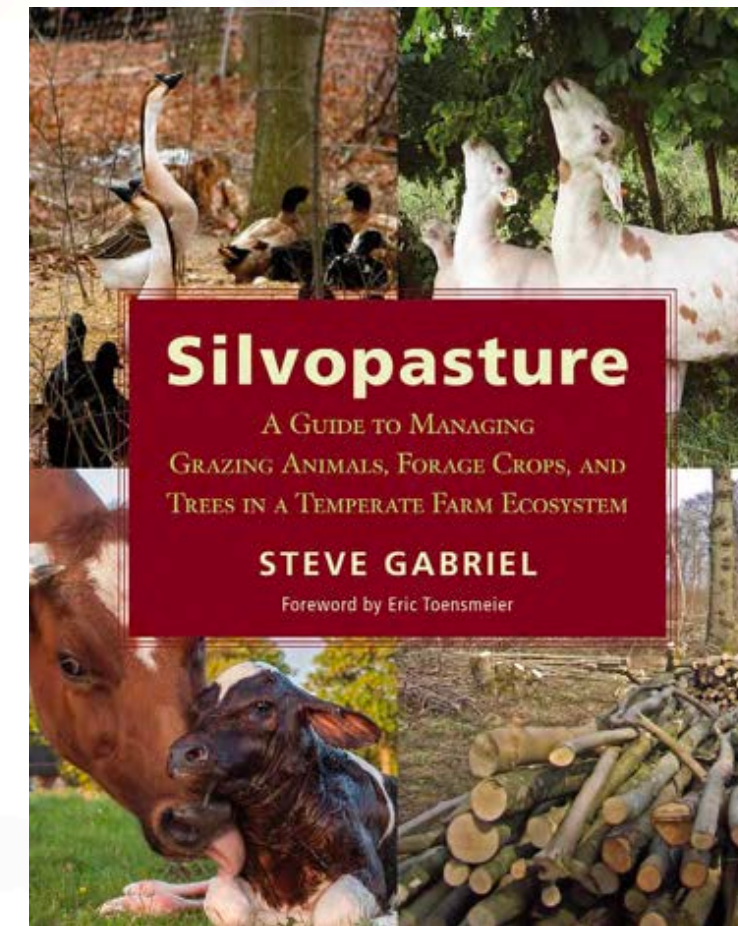
TREE FODDER

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# Silvopasture



## **Tree Fodder is building resilience (and carbon) on our farm.**

Our farm was first captured by the idea of tree fodder out of necessity. In 2016 our region of New York suffered a tremendous drought coupled with record high temperatures and the pastures simply stopped growing. Our neighbors were draining their ponds and driving two states over to find hay to feed animals. Members of the local Mennonite community, perhaps more versed in traditional ways, saw the writing on the wall and sold off or butchered their animals.

Grant report — Reference Library — Seminar Recordings


[www.SILVOPASTUREBOOK.COM](http://www.SILVOPASTUREBOOK.COM)

# Silvopasture Practices for Land, Animal, and Farm Resilience Questionnaire

Are you actively integrating trees, livestock, and forages on lands in the Northeast US?

## NORTHEAST USA

(CT, MA, ME,  
NH, NJ, NY,  
PA, RI, VT)

 Cornell University

Prior to this survey, what was your level of awareness or understanding of Agroforestry Practices?

No awareness- no familiarity, have never heard of.  
Low awareness- heard of once or twice.  
Medium awareness-somewhat familiar or have heard of multiple times.  
High awareness- very familiar with practices, have seen or currently engage with.

	No Awareness	Low	Medium	High Awareness
Silvopasture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest Farming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intercropping/Alley Cropping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Windbreaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riparian Buffers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## NEW YORK Farmers and Land Stewards

Both links at [www.SilvopastureBook.com](http://www.SilvopastureBook.com)



# FREE online class



## Forest Stewardship & Ecology

0% COMPLETE

### Course Curriculum

Start next lecture >

START HERE: About This Class

Welcome!



START HERE: About This Class

Start



Have resources to suggest? Let us know!

Start

### Knowing our Roots: History & Indigenous Forestry



<> LESSON: Forest History

Start



VIDEO: Forest Ecology with Mike DeMunn

Start



<> VIDEO: A Message from Indigenous Women in Forest Management

Start



READING: The Pristine Myth

Start



ACTIVITY: Sit Spot

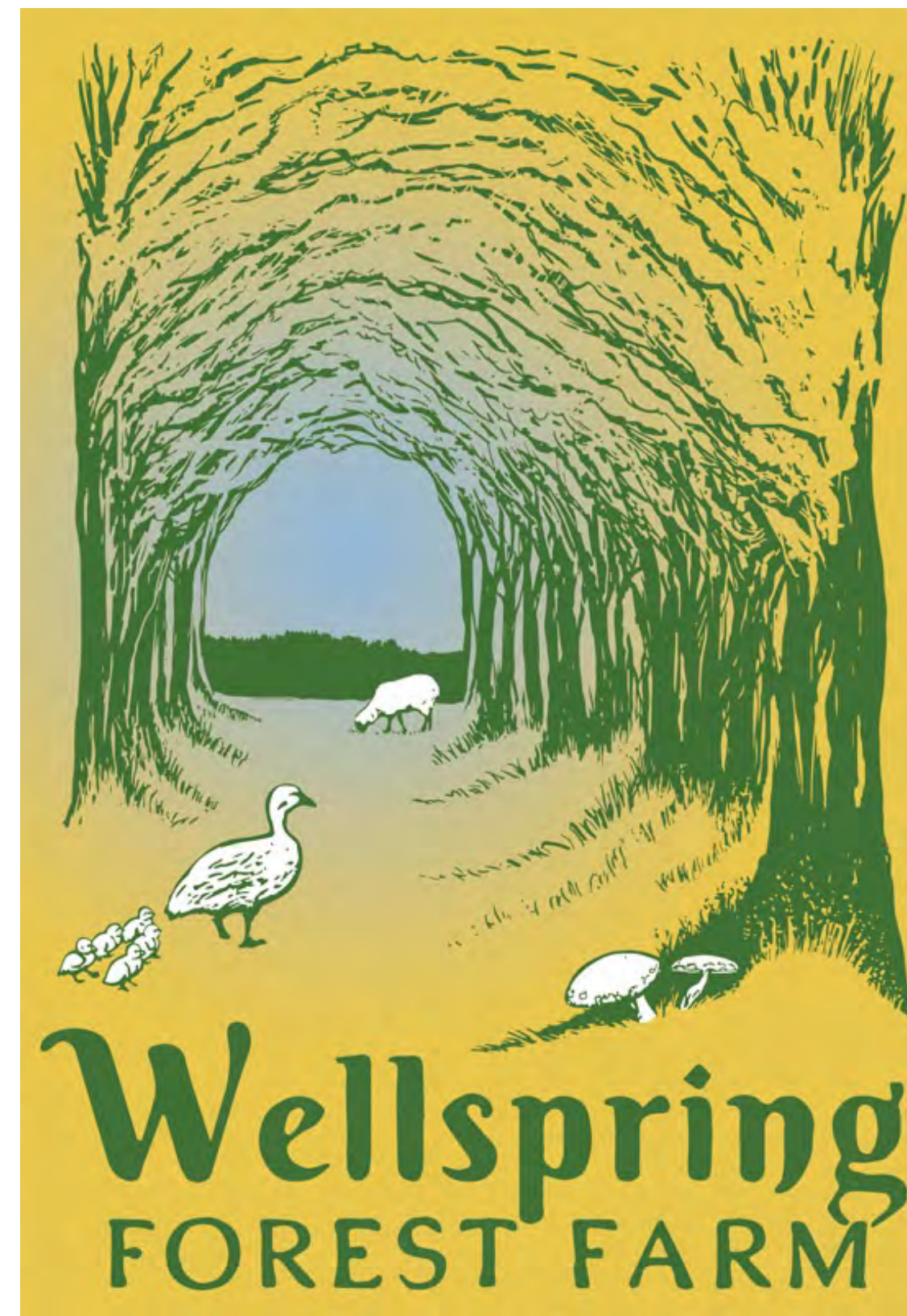
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<https://wellspring-forest-school.teachable.com/p/foundations-of-forest-stewardship>

# Wellspring Forest Farm



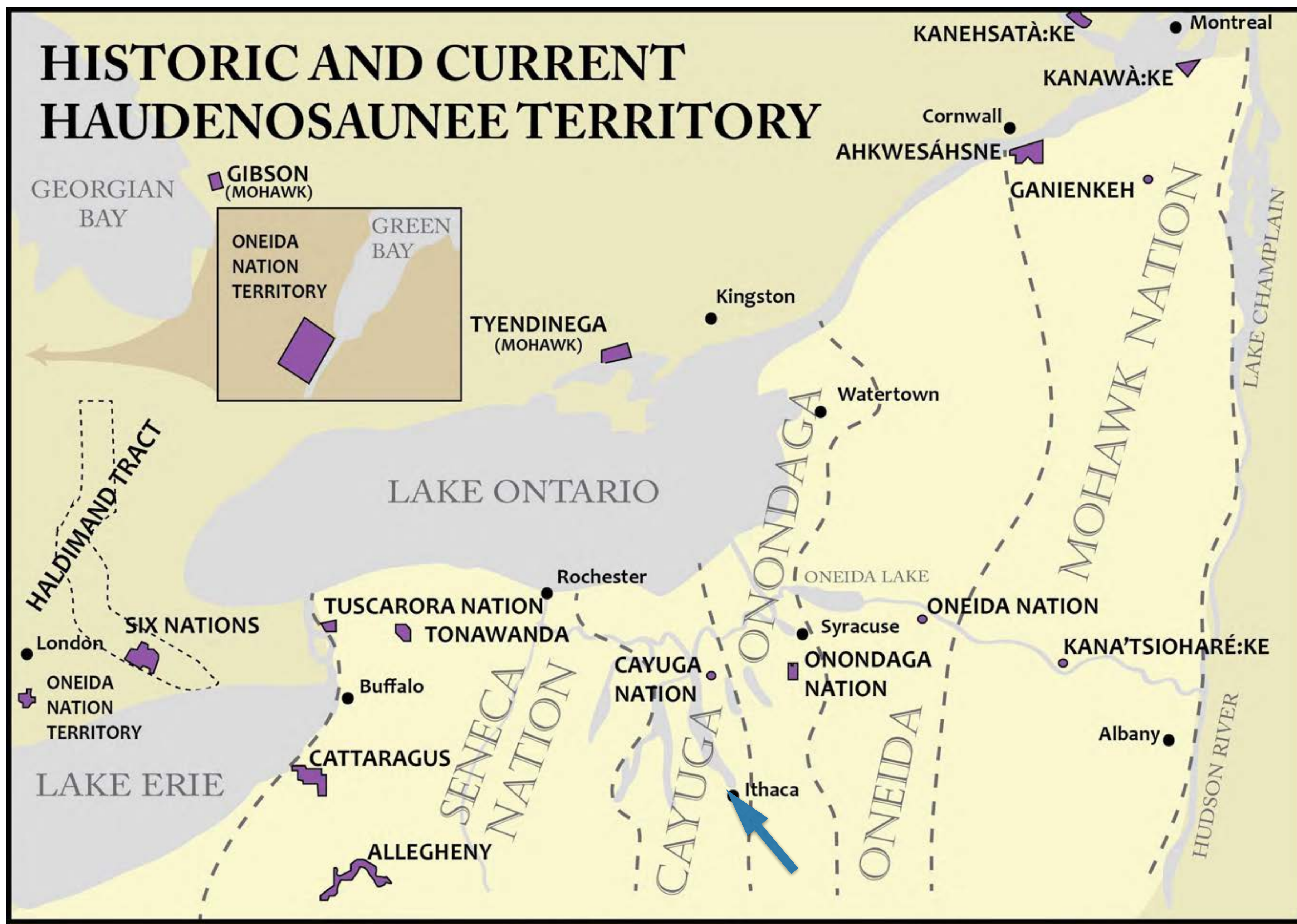
**farming in the image of a forest...**



Mushrooms  
Maple Syrup  
Pastured Lamb  
Duck Eggs  
Elderberry Extract  
Education  
Agritourism



# HISTORIC AND CURRENT HAUDENOSAUNEE TERRITORY



**We are on unceded Gayogohó:no' (Cayuga) lands.**



# Agroforestry used to be called...

*honoring  
indigenous  
wisdom*

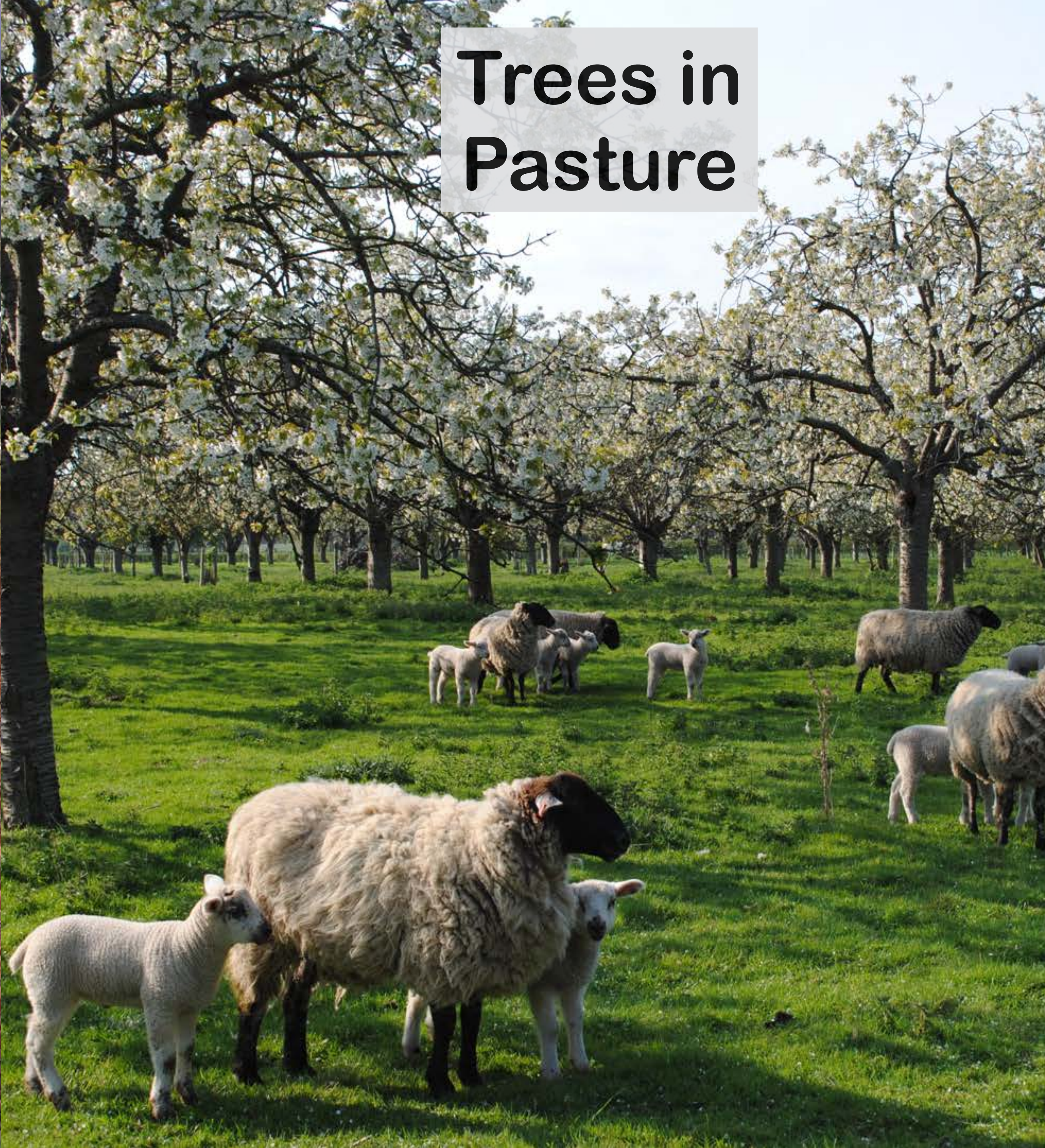
*Mike Demunn*

A photograph of a herd of sheep grazing in a lush green field. The sheep are of various colors, including white, brown, and black. In the background, there are tall trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Silvopasture**  
is  
**ecological**  
**restoration**  
for  
**livestock**  
**habitat**



**Woodland  
Conversion**



**Trees in  
Pasture**





**Opening  
up  
the  
canopy**



# Can I get paid or make \$\$?



United States Department of Agriculture

381-CPS-1

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**SILVOPASTURE**

**Code 381**

**(Ac)**

## **DEFINITION**

Establishment and/or management of desired trees and forages on the same land unit.

## **PURPOSE**

- Provide forage, shade, and/or shelter for livestock.
- Improve the productivity and health of trees/shrubs and forages.
- Improve water quality.
- Reduce erosion.
- Enhance wildlife habitat.
- Improve biological diversity.
- Improve soil quality.
- Increase carbon sequestration and storage.
- Provide for beneficial organisms and pollinators.

## **CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice may be applied on any area that is suitable for the desired forages, trees, and livestock.



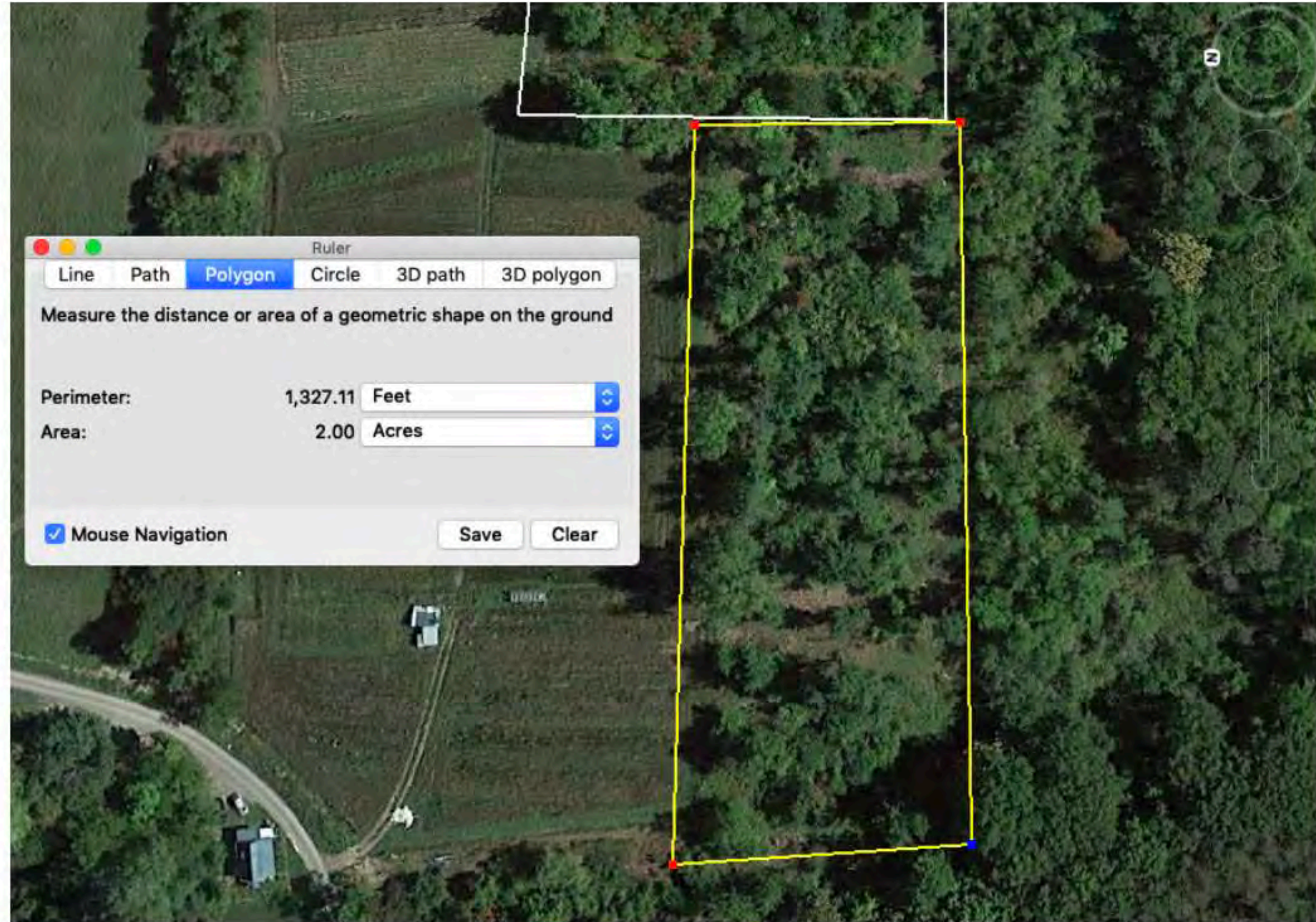
“Thin as  
Mother Nature  
would thin”







1) Select Area of Interest

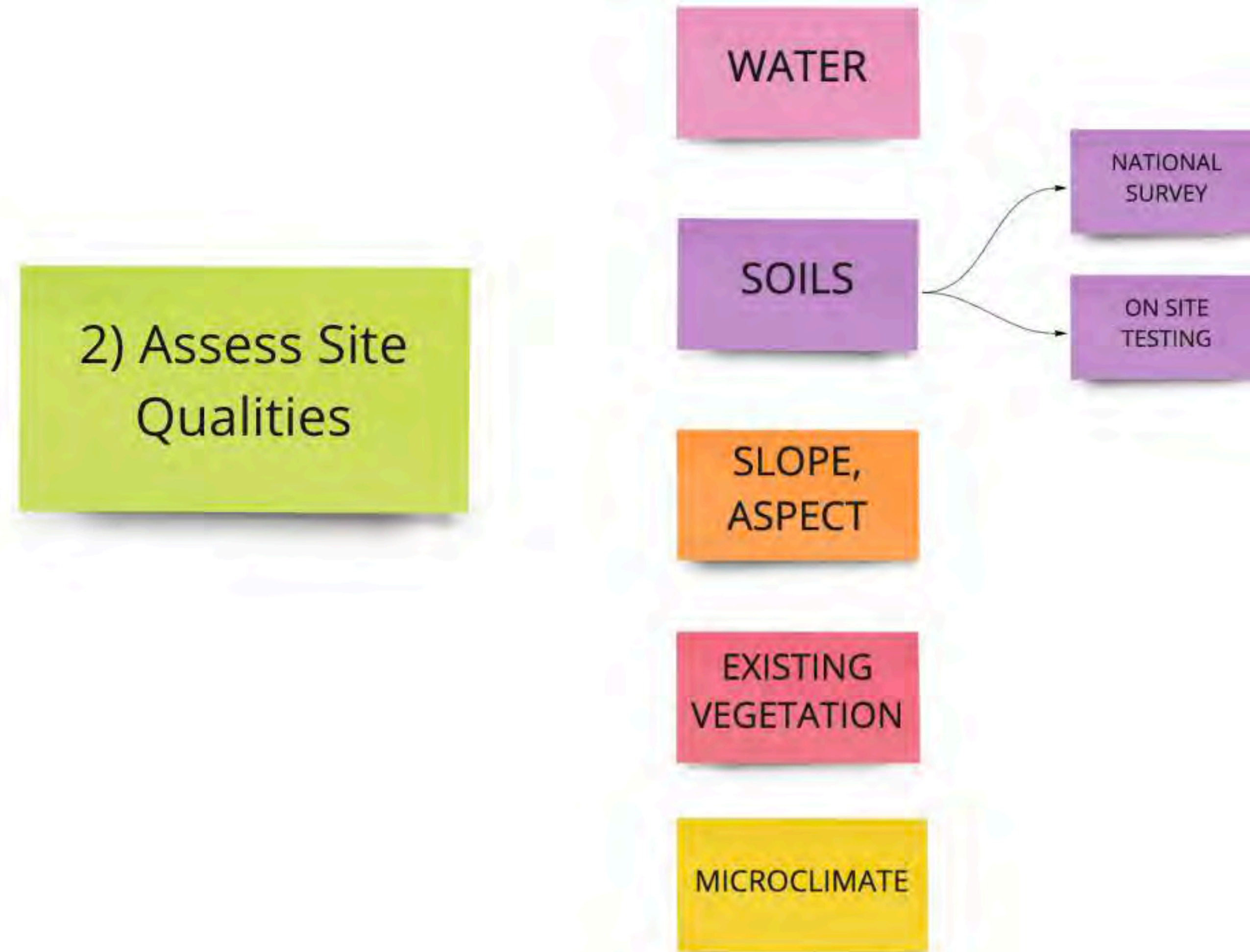


Similar  
ecology and  
management

Start with  
an area you  
can walk  
often

Start with  
the most  
marginal  
areas

What is the character of the site?  
What needs remediation here?





3) What are your goals for having silvopasture here?

Why invest the additional time, energy, and resources to convert?



























1. Get Access  
(You, animals,  
fencing, equipment)

ID and flag  
"Keeper trees"

Engage  
animals

ID Vegetation  
Patterns

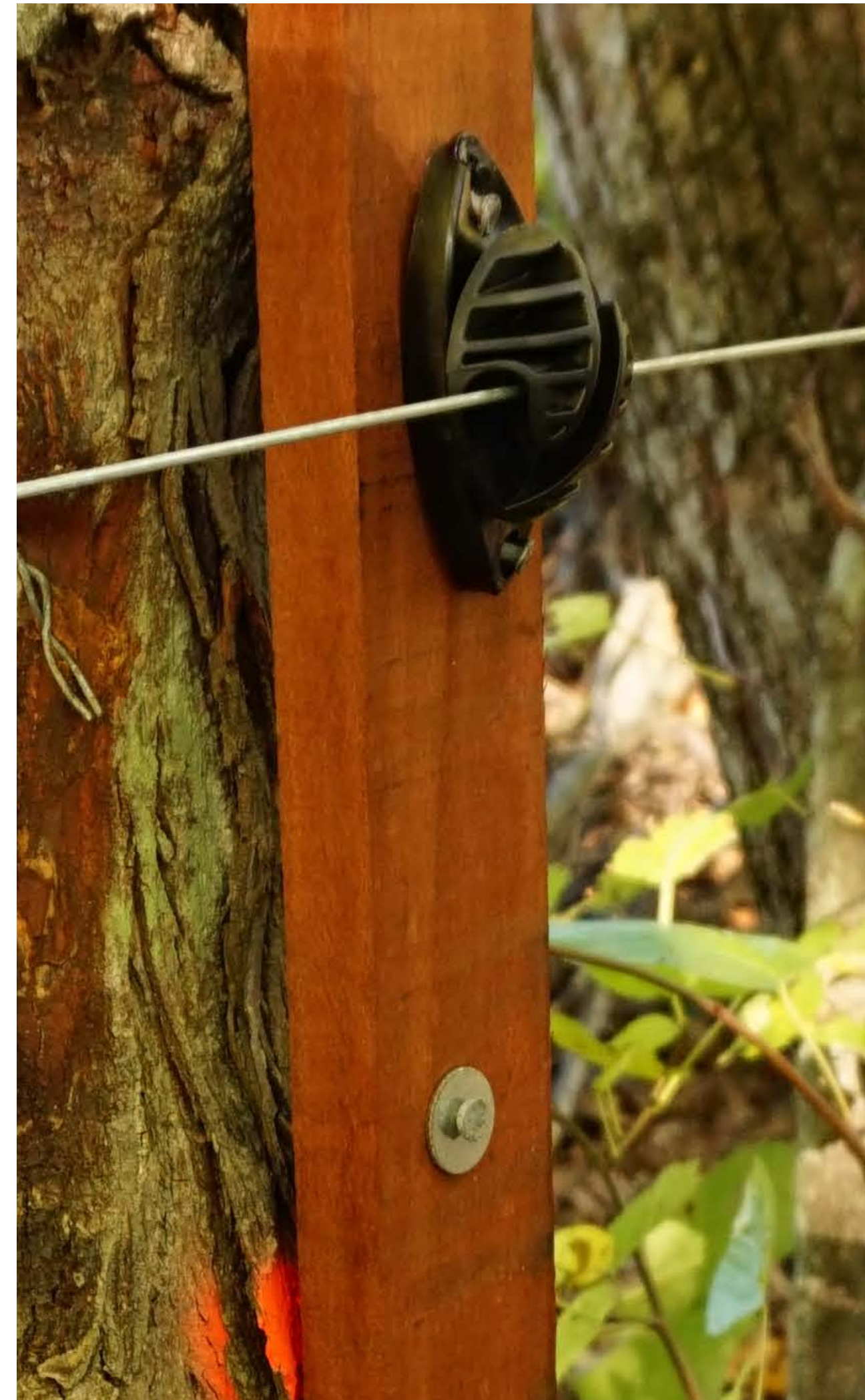




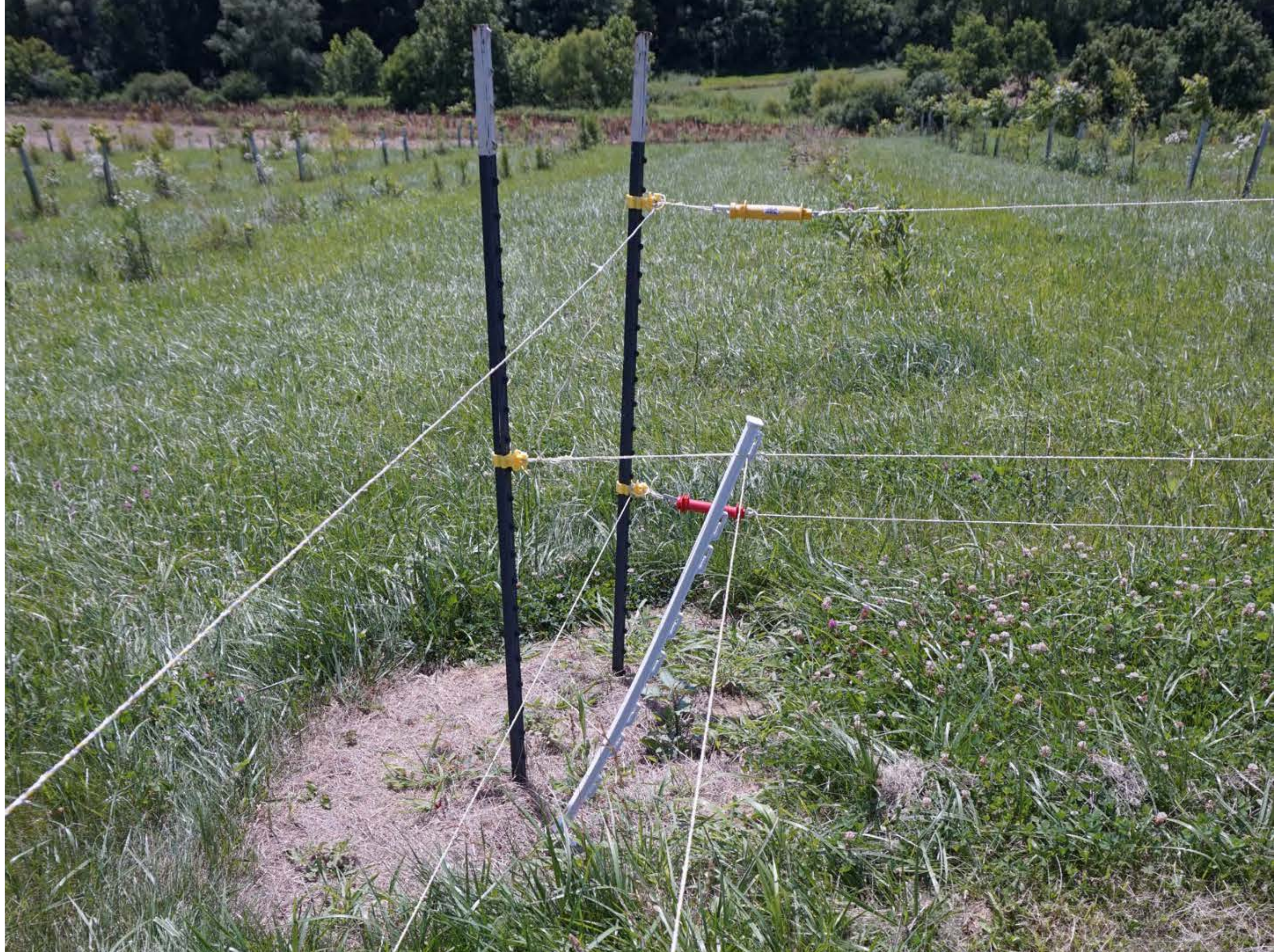




















2. Determine how soon it needs to be Silvopasture

Some debris is good, but not too much...

What is forage strategy?

What is nondesired vegetation strategy?

Don't clear too much, too fast

Gaps, clearings, clusters (Mosaic)













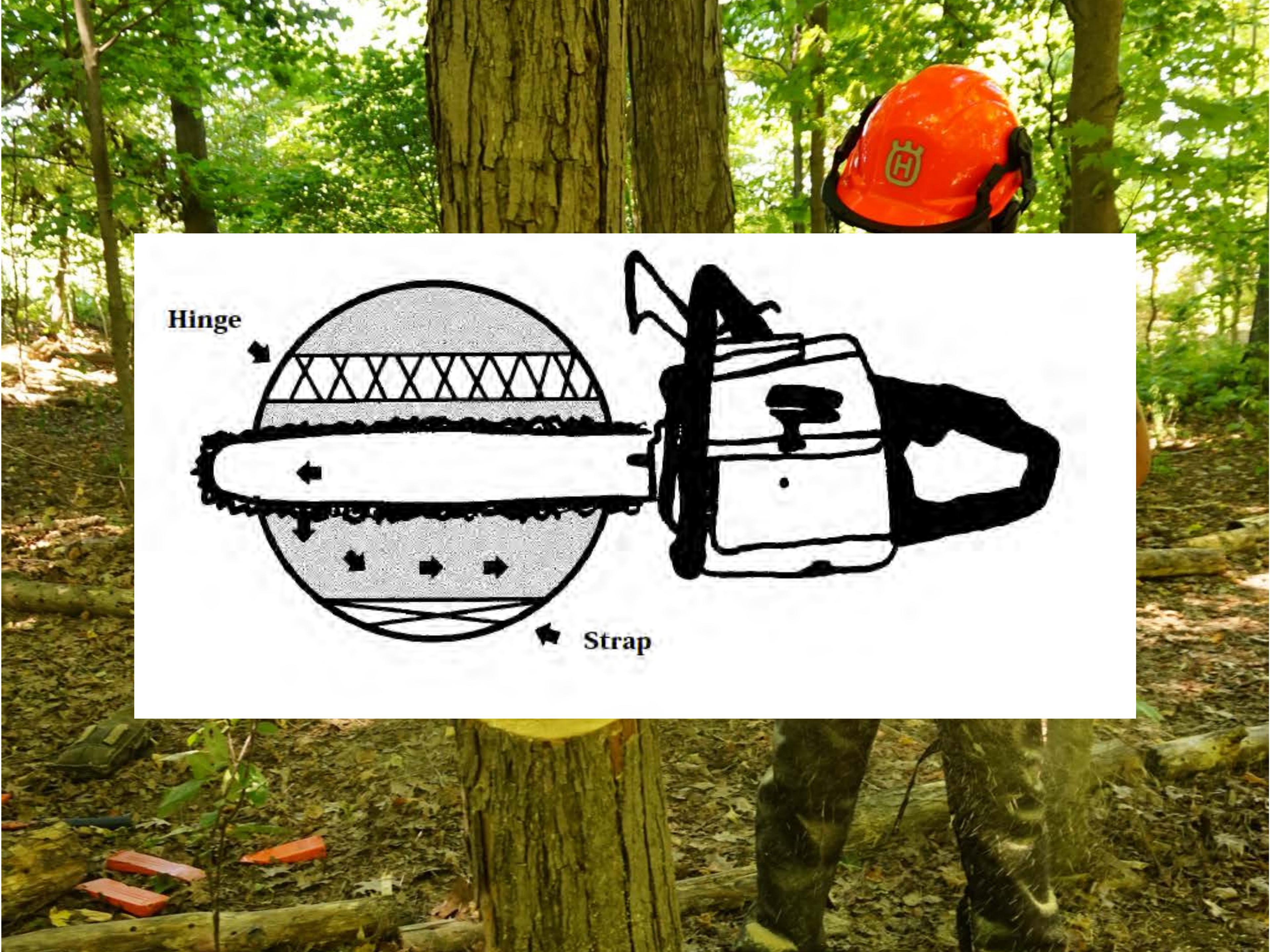












Hinge

Strap

4. Disturbance events to establish forage

shallow tillage?

bale grazing

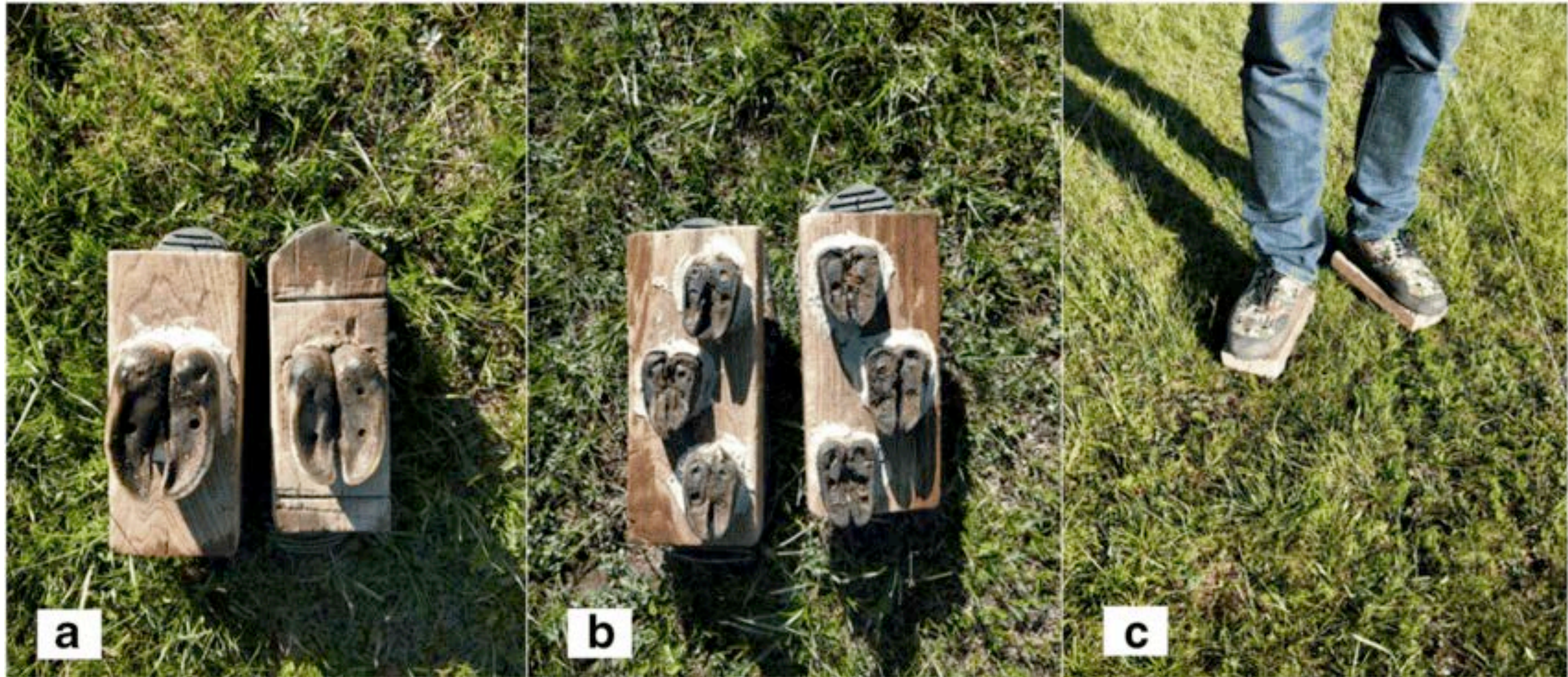
frost seeding

trampling

tarping

machine impact





Xiao, Hong & Peng, Zhen & Xu, Chang & Zhang, De & Chai, Jin & Pan, Tao & Yu, Xiao. (2018). Yak and Tibetan sheep trampling inhibit reproductive and photosynthetic traits of *Medicago ruthenica* var. *inschanica*. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. 190. 10.1007/s10661-018-6896-8.



**Table 1. Suggested Seeding Rates for Frost Seeding into an Existing Grass or Legume Sod**

Species	Rate (lb./acre)		Expected Established Plants*
	Seeded Alone	As Part of Seed Mixture	Plants per square foot
Red Clover	4 - 8	3 - 4	2 - 5
Birdsfoot Trefoil	4 - 6	2 - 3	6 - 9 (in 2nd year)
Alfalfa	5 - 8	3 - 4	4 - 6
Ladino Clover	2 - 3	1 - 2	1 - 2
Alsike Clover	2 - 4	1 - 2	2 - 3
Perennial / Italian Ryegrass	8- 15**	2 - 3	10 - 12
Orchardgrass	3 - 4	1 - 2	4
Tall Fescue	6 - 8	3 - 4	3 - 4
Smooth Bromegrass	Not recommended for frost seeding		
Reed Canarygrass	Not recommended for frost seeding		
Timothy	Not recommended for frost seeding		

\* Expected plants based on "alone" seeding rates

\*\* Use higher rate in "bare ground" situations and lower rate in existing sods







**THANK  
YOU!!**

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**[www.WellspringForestFarm.com](http://www.WellspringForestFarm.com)**



# Connect with



## Upcoming webinars

- 🐔 February 24: Medicinal Grazing and Unexpected Outcomes
- 🐔 March 7: Beefing Up Your Farm's Brand & Online Presence
- 🐔 March 29: Business Structure Basics for Your Farm

## Grants, Scholarships, Training, Mentorship & More!

- 🐔 Scholarships – *ongoing*
- 🐔 Customized handouts on the nutritional benefits of food from pastured animals

Sign up for emails @ [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/)

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