PRACTICING SILVOPASTURE (AGROFORESTRY)

Agroforestry is an overarching land-use system that implements woody perennials (e.g., trees, shrubs) on the same land management system as crops and/or animals. Silvopasture is an agroforestry system that combines the farming of livestock, trees and land management to sustain healthier soil, higher biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration. Silvopasture improves pasture management, promotes soil health and extends grazing opportunities by using marginal land. The practices of agrosilvopastural systems offers efficiencies by combining grazing cattle, forages and trees into one, properly managed area. Cattle also have regular access to wind and weather protection, shade and cooler environments during hot summer months.

Benefits

- Carbon sequestration
- Increased resiliency to the effects of climate change
- Improved soil health
- Enhanced biodiversity

Estimated return on investment
Medium

On-farm emission mitigation potential +

Implementation Tips

- Convert a small forested area into a silvopasture or consider planting trees or other high biomass perennials within existing pastures.

- Consult a woodlot specialist to learn best management practices for local conditions and conduct a site assessment.

- Consult an agronomist/agrologist for forage seeding recommendations.

Resources

- **Webpage:** Silvopasture Canada (dfc-plc.info/PS1)
- **Webpage:** Silvopasture, Beef Cattle Research Council (dfc-plc.info/PS2)
- **Factsheet:** Agroforestry: Opportunities to Integrate Production, Diversification and Conservation, Agroforestry British Columbia (dfc-plc.info/PS3)