

The 2nd Northeast Silvopasture Conference: Creating Profitable, Practical Silvopastures for your Farm

Thursday, January 30th 2014 at the Century House in Latham, NY (Albany)
Preceding the 6th Annual “Winter Green-up Conference” on January 31st and February 1st
To register: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2014wintergreenupnesilvo1-30-1_201



Silvopasturing has vast potential in the Northeast to increase farm viability and address numerous environmental challenges through the sustainable and symbiotic production of timber and livestock on the same acreage. This special one-day conference will build on the concepts and knowledge presented at the inaugural “*Northeast Silvopasture Conference*” in November, 2011. Foresters, farmers, land managers and conservationists – and anyone else with a role or interest in sustainable food and timber production systems – will benefit by attending this conference. Come meet and network with other silvopasture practitioners and learn how to make silvopasturing work for your farm or the land that you manage for others. *Credit approval pending for Certified Crop Advisors, Certified Foresters, and FSA borrowers. Approval updates posted at:* www.silvopasture.ning.com

9:00-10:15 ***A Case for Expanding Silvopasturing in the Northeast***

Roy Brubaker will discuss the historical context of the forested landscape, and why a paradigm shift from “keep animals out of the woods!” to putting them back in is increasingly justified. He will present some compelling reasons for expanded silvopasture management in the Northeast, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

10:30-12:00 ***Sustainably Growing Quality Timber and Forages – On the Same Land***

Peter Smallidge will cover the “pasture into trees” approach to creating silvopastures, focusing on: thinning methods and strategies to increase solar energy at the ground level in “3-D” pastures; the importance of good tree selection; and, tips for working with foresters to accomplish silvopasture management objectives.

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Brett Chedzoy will cover the “trees into pastures” approach, including: choosing the right trees; site preparation and care through the establishment phase; protection and pest control; the economics of planting trees in pasture environments; and a comparison of artificial vs. natural regeneration.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:45 ***Managing Livestock in Silvopastures***



Troy Bishopp will cover: Adapting fencing and water systems to work well in silvopastures; planning to successfully incorporate silvopasture areas into existing grazing systems; creating sufficient animal impact to address different vegetative situations; measuring available food in silvopastures and converting it to stocking rates; Best Management Practices to protect sensitive areas and water quality; and, when is it appropriate to manage forest riparian buffers as dual-purpose silvopastures?

1:45-2:30 ***Forage Establishment and Management in Silvopastures***

Joe Orefice will cover: establishment methods, forage species, and grazing management tips to promote the growth and persistence of desirable plants in silvopastures (while controlling undesirable vegetation). Joe will also share the results to date of his NE SARE project focused on forage establishment in silvopastures.

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-4:00 ***Silvopasture: From Theory to Reality on Two Farms***



Ross Hackerson and consulting forester Jeff Jourdain will discuss the reasoning behind creating silvopastures at Ross’s farm in Massachusetts, and their trials and errors to date.

Dan Carr will give an overview of silvopasture projects at the Stone Barns Center in the Lower Hudson Valley using pigs, sheep and cattle and poultry.

4:30-5:30 ***Group Discussion (presenters panel)***



Speaker Bios

Roy Brubaker is a District Forester with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Roy and his family operate a diverse organic livestock farm in south-central PA – Blue Rooster Farm (www.bluroosterfarm.com). Roy is a current Board member of PASA (Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture) and a tireless advocate for sustainable farming and forestry practices.

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Dr. Peter Smallidge is the NYS Extension Forester with Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Peter and his family operate a small-scale silvopasture operation at their home in the eastern Adirondacks. Peter co-directed the “Goats in the Woods” project at Cornell University’s Arnot Forest from 2000-2003, which later stimulated interest in extension programs on silvopasturing. Peter is currently involved in several silvopasture research and education projects.

Brett Chedzoy is a Senior Resource Educator in Natural Resources and Agriculture with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schuyler County, NY. Brett first became involved with silvopasture management while working as a forester in the early 1990’s in central Argentina. Upon returning to NY in 2002, Brett began to implement silvopasture management at the family farm in NY’s Finger Lakes Region – Angus Glen Farms, LLC (www.angusglenfarm.com). Since 2008, Brett has delivered dozens of talks and workshops related to silvopasture management.

Troy Bishopp, a.k.a. “the Grass Whisperer” is a grazing professional for the Madison County (NY) Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Troy and his family contract graze organic dairy heifers on their Central NY farm. Troy is the project leader on a planned grazing professional development training program for the CNY RC&D Council funded through NESARE. He authors many articles and commentary on grass farming that appear in prominent farming publications and websites and is a leading advocate for perennial pasture-based agriculture.

Joe Orefice is Assistant Professor at Paul Smith’s College, and is completing his PhD at the University of New Hampshire in Silvopasture Management. Joe operates a diverse livestock operation (North Branch Farm) in the northern Adirondacks where he is in his third year of evaluating forage establishment methods in silvopastures through a grant with Northeast SARE.

Jeff Jourdain is a consulting forester from Pittsfield, MA who has worked with a number of landowners in recent years to evaluate and implement silvopasture projects.

Ross Hackerson is a multi-species grazer who has worked with his consulting forester for the past five years to convert an increasing amount of his farm’s primarily forested acreage into productive silvopastures (www.graydogsfarm.com)

Dan Carr is a member of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture’s *Livestock Team* (www.stonebarnscenter.org) in Tarrytown, NY. Dan’s interest in agroforestry started during his tenure in the Peace Corps, and has carried over to the Center where he manages pigs and just about every other farm animal imaginable in silvopasture settings.

For additional information:

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- www.ccealbany.com
- www.silvopasture.ning.com
- www.forestconnect.info (publications)



Made possible with the generous support of: NY NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, and the Central NY RC&D Council in partnership funding with the NESARE Professional Development Project



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