

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM20 – Silvopasture for wildlife habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

Silvopasture integrates trees, livestock, and forage into a single system on one site resulting in annual forage production for grazing and long-term products from trees. Although silvopastures can provide quality habitat for some species of wildlife, not all silvopastures are designed or managed to benefit wildlife. Manipulation of both the understory and overstory plant composition can enhance wildlife values while still providing livestock and forestry benefits.

**Land Use Applicability**

Pastureland and forestland.

**Benefits**

Integrating trees, forage and livestock creates a land management system to produce marketable products while maintaining long-term productivity. Economic risk is reduced because the system produces multiple products, most of which have an established market. When a landowner is also interested in providing habitat for wildlife, silvopasture designs and management can be modified to create structure and plant diversity which is attractive to many wildlife species including quail, wild turkey, nongame birds and other terrestrial wildlife.

**Criteria**

1. Identify wildlife species to be benefited by the silvopasture.
2. Inventory the habitat condition of the silvopasture, the farm, and adjoining farms to determine habitat needs for the targeted wildlife.
3. Develop a plan to enhance the silvopasture to provide habitat for the targeted species.
4. Use one or more of the following methods to improve habitat for the targeted species.
  - a. Establish additional understory vegetation (e.g., native grass, forbs and shrubs) that will improve habitat conditions for the targeted species. Establish clusters of other tree species if needed as a food source (e.g., oaks for mast).
  - b. Defer or manage grazing periods to enhance wildlife habitat during critical life cycle periods.
  - c. Manage tree canopy to achieve the desired understory plant community.
  - d. Leave some dead or dying trees as snags if cavity nesting wildlife is targeted.
  - e. Remove trees or invasive plants that do not provide the desired habitat.
  - f. Replace removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat.
  - g. Thin less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide the desired wildlife habitat.



United States Department of Agriculture  
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2011 Ranking Period 1

**Documentation Requirements**

1. Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
2. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of silvopasture.

## Indiana CSP Enhancement Supplemental Information

### **ANM20 – Silvopasture for Wildlife Habitat:**

- Only applicable to existing pastureland that presently has trees, or where trees will be planted.
- Does not apply to native forestland, or woodland managed for timber production or for wildlife habitat.
- Only applicable to hard-mast producing trees that will be planted/maintained (see the appropriate [CSP Wildlife Plant Species](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/csp2010/2010%20CSP%20Wildlife%20Plant%20Species.doc) tables  
<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/csp2010/2010%20CSP%20Wildlife%20Plant%20Species.doc>)
- Wildlife species that may be benefitted include: squirrels, deer, turkey, and woodpeckers.
- Existing canopy cover of the trees can not exceed 30%.
- A prescribed grazing/browsing plan must be written and followed.
- The acreage will not be utilized as only a “lounge” area for adjacent pasture.
- Water access shall be available at a distance no more than 1200 feet from any grazed portion. Natural springs, creeks, streams or rivers shall not be utilized as the water source and shall be protected.
- Livestock will not be allowed to graze/browse these sites when conditions are present for excessive compaction or erosion problems. Vegetative cover shall be maintained at all times.
- Grazing/browsing outside the normal growth period for the species present will not be allowed – not to be used as a winter “barn”.