

Electric Fence (Net) for Targeted Goat Grazing – Missouri 2024

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Background Information

- Missouri is a home for 15 million-acres of forest, and 17 million-acres of pasture (MDA, 2022).
- The state is battling with the encroachment of invasive weeds and shrubs (Floden and Saxton, 2020).
- Goats are widely used to consume invasive plants.
- Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) has designed comprehensive training programs including hands-on skills in setting up electric fence.
- This technology is beneficial to land-owners whose pastures or forest areas are covered by invasive weeds and shrubs.

Purposed Programs

Hands on training will be organized at

- Edgar Spring, Missouri
- Columbia, Missouri
- Florissant, Missouri and
- Leslie, Missouri



Dates will be announced on February of 2024 and posted on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MidMissouriGoatSolutions>

Learning Opportunities

- a) Hands-on-training to set up electric fence, use of energizers, gates, grounding rods, and training goats to electric fence.



- b) Lectures on targeted grazing of invasive plants, concerns about goat nutrition, and toxic plants.



- c) Selection of goat breeds, browsing intervals, determination of time to move to the next pasture.

Benefits of Using Electric Fence

1. Easy to built in forests and pasturelands dominated with invasive plants.
2. Provide physical barriers, which keeps goats, and guardian animals inside the fence, while at the same time deter predators.

Environmental Benefits of Targeted Grazing

It is hard to control invasive plants. Traditional methods such as mowing and herbicide application are expensive and labor intensive. Herbicides if used to control such plants, can run off and endanger other living plants and animals. Power equipment burns fossil fuel and produces CO₂ whereas goats used for the same purpose won't leave anything behind except fertilizers.

Plan of Work – Lincoln University

To address the knowledge gap of goat producers for targeted grazing, Lincoln University Cooperative of Extension will organize hands-on-trainings on setting up electric fence (electric net) for targeted grazing. Total four trainings will be held at different locations across Missouri in 2024.



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