## **AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**



**Economic Benefits of Silvopasture Systems:** 

Silvopasture offers significant economic benefits for farmers in Jefferson County, by increasing farm profitability and improving resource efficiency. By integrating trees, forage, and livestock on the same land, farmers can generate multiple income streams from timber, nuts, or fruit while maintaining livestock production. The shade and wind protection provided by trees reduce heat stress on livestock, leading to improved weight gain, higher milk production, and better overall health, which translates into greater market returns. Enhanced forage quality and extended grazing seasons can reduce feed costs, while the natural nutrient cycling from manure improves soil health, lowering fertilizer expenses. Additionally, silvopasture increases land-use efficiency by allowing farmers to maximize production on the same acreage, ultimately improving long-term financial stability and resilience against market and climate fluctuations.

For more information on how to get started with a silvopasture system, check out this in-depth manual by Peter Smallidge and Bret Chedzoy: <u>Silvopasturing3-3-2011.pdf</u>