

a section of silvopasture most of the grazing season. This has been an invaluable asset during not infrequent inclement weather. The cows take shelter when they need it in the silvopasture areas.

Overall, the silvopasture project meshes well with our long-term goal of continuing to build up our small dairy herd. It is a project that would function well on any livestock farm, but fits particularly well with a low-input dairy farm such as ours. Whereas many woodlots in our neighborhood are over harvested, we feel that ours is improving in value while providing feed for cattle. We see the use of silvopasture as a management tool to increase the value and profitability of our diverse farm.

We will also continue to harvest sawlogs from the silvopasture area. We will be able to do this without impacting the longterm goals of growing quality sawlogs largely because we have a small bandsaw sawmill that is able to make use of small logs that would hold little value at larger commercial sawmills. In addition, we are able to harvest these smaller, often damaged or blown down logs with our oxen, thereby not damaging the woods as would a skidder or other large logging equipment. Trained teams of oxen are also a product our farm sells. The success of this silvopasture project hinged to a large extent on having the oxen and the sawmill here on the farm. If we had hired a contractor to harvest the logs or saw the logs, the project would have been less advantageous to the farm as a whole.

The land devoted to silvopasture for this project will remain silvopasture. We will continue to graze the silvopasture and harvest firewood and sawlogs. A larger harvest of higher quality sawlogs is tentatively planned for in approximately fifteen years.