



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at Florida A&M University, FY 2008

The Florida A&M University Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds were administered through the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program. Funds were used to conduct a Silviculture Grazing Demonstration project for small farmers on the University's farm. This project is designed to integrate livestock in a forested system while maintaining the natural forest environment. The primary audience for the project included small forestland owners and small animal producers with limited land acreage. From October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, every \$1 of RREA funds leveraged \$10 in additional funds from two other sources.

Examples of RREA funds use are listed below.

Silviculture Demonstration Project

This RREA project established an 85-acre demonstration site of forestland to grazing in 30-year-old long leaf planted pines. The site was divided and planted into five acre plots and seeded to Tifton 9 Bahia grass for grazing small and large animals in a year-round rotational system- a system easily applicable for small-scale livestock producers.

- Conducted two field days for 25 farmers interested in the silviculture rotational grazing systems.
- Attended by 75 cattle and small-scale goat producers, a one-day workshop was conducted on the economics of a silviculture grazing system.
- Three workshops for meat-goat producers on silviculture pasture development and management reached 35 farmers.



Extensive Grazing Ecosystem



Small Farm Field Day Participants

Sustainable Extensive Grazing System in Hardwood Ecosystem

This RREA project was expanded on the farm site to include an extensive grazing system for small animals in hardwood species.

- Fenced 30 acres of a natural hardwood wooded habitat for an intensive versus extensive grazing system.
- A one-day workshop to observe the natural ecosystem had the participation of 10 small-scale farmers with more than 200 acres of hardwood land.
- A one-week Master Goat Certification Program reached 45 goat producers who also attended a one-hour tour of the extensive hardwood grazing demonstration site.

"I now see how I can utilize my small wooded acres to increase income from a natural grazing system for my goats and cattle." –Godfrey Nurse, Meat Goat Producer, Quincy, FL.

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