



Afforestation & Silvopasture

Afforestation means creating forests in places that are no longer forested, such as planting trees on degraded agricultural or pasture lands and in urban areas.

Silvopasture is the practice of adding trees to pastureland. Forests sequester carbon in trees, soil, and other vegetation.

QUICK FACTS

- Silvopasture is an ancient practice, integrating trees and pasture into a single system for raising livestock.
- Shade-tolerant and semi-tolerant crops, such as blueberries and blackberries, can also be incorporated in silvopastures.
- According to the USDA, Georgia has about 2.8 million acres of pastureland.
- Almost 60% of land in Georgia is naturally-recruited and planted temperate forests.
- Georgia's forests currently offset about 8% of the state's CO₂ emissions and can sequester 1 to 4 tons of carbon per acre per year.

BEYOND CARBON

- Positive environmental impacts of afforestation include improved air and water quality, and increased wildlife habitats and biodiversity.
- Improved air and water quality benefit public health.
- Silvopasture has the potential to cut farmers' costs by reducing the need for feed, fertilizer and herbicides.
- Issues to watch include changes in the amount of rural land use available for farming. Reductions may be supplemented by farming tree products. In addition, there may be economic barriers to implement and maintain afforestation for low-income farmers.

LAND SINKS

GEORGIA'S 2030 MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 1 Mt of CO₂e in Georgia by planting 7% of current pasture lands with mixed hardwood & loblolly tree species.

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