

CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

DFR-5 WOODLAND PROTECTION THROUGH LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION

Trees are a very important natural resource that offers both environmental and aesthetic benefits for people, animals, and plants. They produce oxygen, provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality, prevent erosion, moderate temperature, reduce air and noise pollution, and enhance aesthetics and property values.

The purpose of the DFR-5 Woodland Protection practice is to protect the soil and plant resources from grazing by domestic livestock. When livestock have access to forested areas many different things occur. Any amount of grazing negatively affects or eliminates the understory and the woodland forbs and grasses. When this occurs it leaves the forested pasture barren and without cover, food, and nesting sites for wildlife. Not only does grazing destroy the current habitat, but the future of the forest is compromised as new seedlings are continually grazed and destroyed. Grazing also negatively affects existing trees. Prolonged trampling by the livestock's hooves compact the soil leaving the tree roots exposed. Once the tree roots are exposed and are physically damaged the tree is left susceptible to disease. The nutritional benefit to livestock is much lower in a mature wooded pasture than in a grassland pasture. When the understory is destroyed woodland erosion becomes more evident. These negative impacts of livestock grazing in woodlands aren't always obvious to landowners.



The Bollinger County SWCD has limited cost-share funds available for this practice. Cost-share for this practice includes the labor and components necessary to build a two-strand electric fence or a four-strand barbed wire fence. The cost-share for this practice is based on the State of Missouri's average cost for exclusion fence. As an eligible landowner you would receive back approximately 75% of the state's average cost for the total feet of fence completed.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent Parks, Soils and Water sales tax and administers those funds through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.