GOATS OFF GRID

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SARE Grant Program
USDA-Producer Grant
Documented fact—goats can manage brush and noxious weeds

Main drawback—keeping goats in pasture, fencing is costly

Grant, to see if goats can be trained with shock collars

Goats then grazing within the wireless fence

Use Solar panel to generate the power for the wireless fencer

Fencer & shelter rotated around pasture
THE SUBJECTS: FIRST YEAR GOATS
TRAINING THE GOATS

- Set up the fencer
- Flag the perimeter of the area
- Put collars on goats
- Walk goats up to the perimeters
- Allow goats to test the collars
- Training twice a day for two weeks
2ND YEAR GOATS
Started later, due to weather
Goats were young does
Seemed easier to train
What I’ve Learned

- Goats are very stubborn
- Herding instinct helps with the training process
- Bulls like playing with the shelter
- Not brave enough to take far from home
- Not commercially available, YET
- Begin training as soon as grass greens up
- Next year, using does
- Predators not a problem
- Almost need an electric fence to keep cattle out of area
WHAT I’VE LEARNED

- The smaller system, is not trustworthy enough to go far from the farm.
- Very susceptible to weather, sunlight.
NEXT STEPS

- Look at the satellite system
- Cooperate with neighbors
- Technology is lagging behind
- Keep researching
QUESTIONS???