

GOATS OFF GRID

Jody Holthaus
SARE Grant Program
USDA-Producer Grant



PURPOSE

- 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











2ND YEAR OF GOATS OFF GRID

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???

