Silvopasture Producers of California

Timeline: September 2020 – August 2022





Liz Carlisle

Audubon CA
CA FarmLink
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN)
Carbon Cycle Institute
Community Environmental Council
Paicines Ranch
PastureMap
TomKat Ranch
UC Berkeley
UC Davis

University of California Cooperative Extension Ventura



National Agroforestry Center USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry grant number #20-DG-11132540-019 to Strategy Research Science LLC.

Union of Concerned Scientists

University of Indiana

Who is practicing silvopasture in California?... and how?



- ☐ **Identify** producers.
- ☐ Understand and document the different ways that silvopasture is currently practiced.
- ☐ Highlight a subset of these producers through videos and print profiles.

Photo: Dinner Bell Farm, Paul Glowaski

Ongoing Producer Survey (2021):

- 21 current silvopasture producers have responded
- Counties represented:
 - Santa Barbara, Amador, San Benito, Yolo, Solano, Nevada, Napa, Sonoma, Ventura, Marin, Kern, Modoc, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Lake
- Most of these silvopasture systems have been established within the past 10 years

	Median	Min-Max
Total Acreage Managed	475	9-7600
Silvopasture Acreage	90	2-7000

Livestock Species:



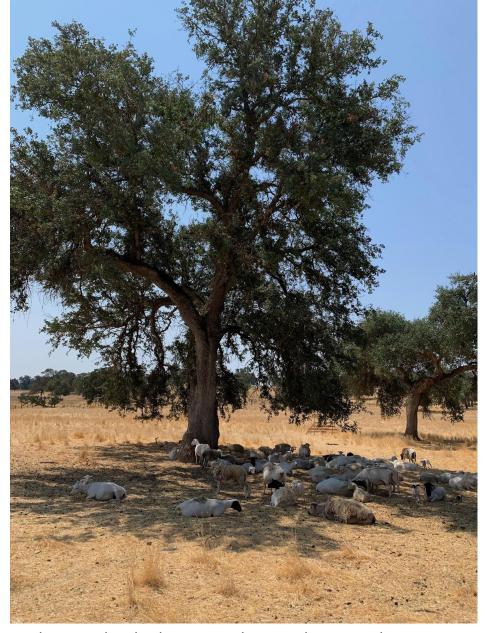
Tree Species:



Producer-system scenarios (work in progress):

- 1. Newer producer who started off with silvopasture
- 2. Land trust / conservation / restoration effort
- 3. Rancher that incorporated trees
- 4. Orchard producer that incorporated animals
- 5. Vineyard producer that incorporated animals
- 6. Contract graziers (?)

Please spread the word! https://tinyurl.com/aboutCAsilvo

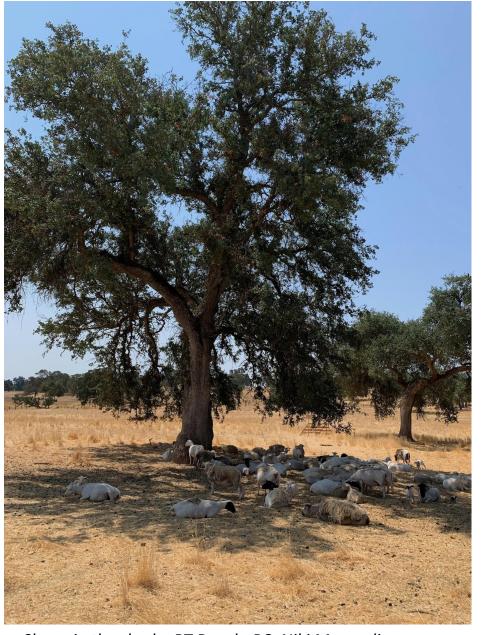


Sheep in the shade. PT Ranch. PC: Niki Mazaroli

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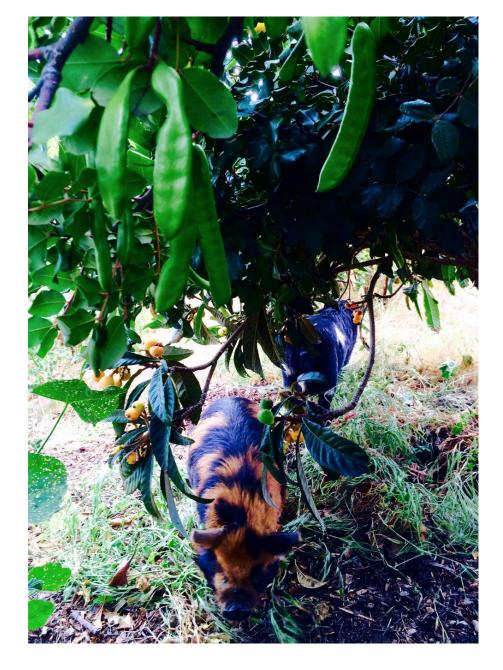
Motivations/Benefits:

- 1. Ecosystem restoration/carbon sequestration
- 2. Adding animals improves fertility/soil health
- 3. Adding animals provides weed management, saves labor/fuel
- 4. Adding trees provides shade for livestock
- 5. Adding trees provides forage for livestock
- 6. Also: fog catchment, fuels management, stacking enterprises to get more value per acre, agritourism potential, engaging next generation in the farming/ranching operation

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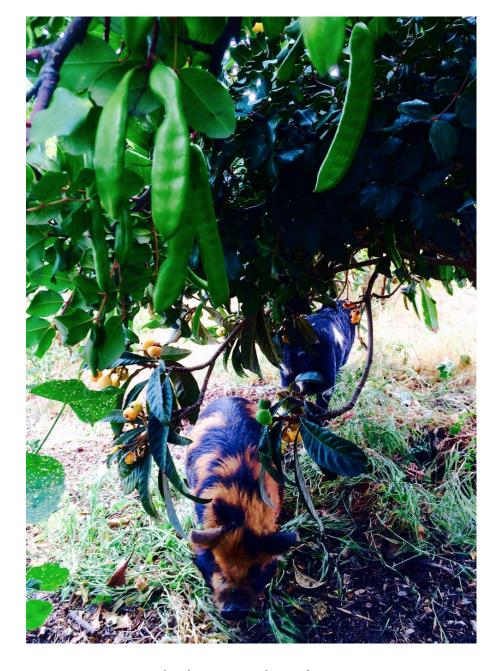


Pigs grazing under loquat and carob. Gaviota Givings at Orella Ranch. PC: Guner Taitrum

Biggest Challenges:

- 1. Cost of trees, infrastructure
- 2. Labor/management time (esp. moving animals)
- 3. Establishing and protecting young trees
- 4. Learning curve, timing
- 5. Forage for animals in summer
- 6. Finding a meat processing facility
- 7. Managing pests and predators

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Pigs grazing under loquat and carob. Gaviota Givings at Orella Ranch. PC: Guner Taitrum

Emerging themes:

- 1. Most respondents are using multi-species grazing
- 2. Almost everyone is direct marketing
- 3. Most respondents own at least part of their land
- Silvopasture implementation is not a "one and done" most have replanted
- Most of these silvopasture systems required infrastructure: water and/or fencing
- 6. Timing and producer learning curve are biggest keys to success

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