Conversion of pine plantations to silvopasture through thinning

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Thinning options

• Heavy thinning removing most of the tree canopy and leaving low basal area per acre.

**FIGURE 4.** - Influence of trees on forage yields.
Thinning options

- Thinning to single row wide spacing
Thinning options

• Thinning to double-row configuration, e.g. 4 x 8 x 40 ft.
Planting study at 454 TPA

- 8 x 12 ft
- 4 x 24 ft
- 2 x 48 ft
- 6 x 8 x 24 ft
- 4 x 8 x 40 ft
- 2 x 8 x 88 ft

13 years later, the double-row spacing 4 x 8 x 40 ft produced more forage and as much wood as the single-row 8 x 12 ft control treatment.
Thinning options

- Does this look like a CRP plantation that needs thinning?
- Is Silvopasture an option?
Thinning options

• Mimic 4 x 8 x 40 ft spacing by creating double-row configuration

• Thin to: 8 to 12 ft within rows
  8 to 12 ft between rows
create 40 ft alleys
Removing debris after thinning

- Ever useful in FL prescribed fire...
Preparing the seedbed

- Disking between the rows of trees before establishing forage(s)
Working Silvopasture

- Slash pine / bahiagrass / crimson clover silvopasture in winter view
Working Silvopasture

• Slash pine / bahiagrass / crimson clover silvopasture in summer view