Controlling Invasive Species Using Different Management Methods

Objective: To compare three types of invasive species management in woody pastures; chemical, mechanical, and livestock.

Farmer-cooperators will:
- Conduct a baseline analysis on three, two acre timber plots before any treatment takes place. Using the transect method; conduct plant species counts on each plot.
- Plot 1: Define a chemical protocol and record date(s) of herbicide application.
- Plot 2: Record type used and date(s) of mechanical management.
- Plot 3: Graze goats following a management plan, ensuring goat density is always consistent. Use NRCS EQIP guidelines to inform your grazing management plan.
- One year after baseline data was collected, use the transect method to conduct a plant species count again. Keep track of new species that may have appeared within the year.
- Track all of the costs associated with each method of management.

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Analyze the data and publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website and potentially other outlets.
- Pay the Farmer Cooperators $550 at the conclusion of the project in 2016 and in 2017.

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The terms of this Research Protocols document are subject to the terms of the individual Research Cooperators Memorandum of Understanding agreement with PFI. To the extent these terms may differ or conflict, the Memorandum of Understanding shall control.