

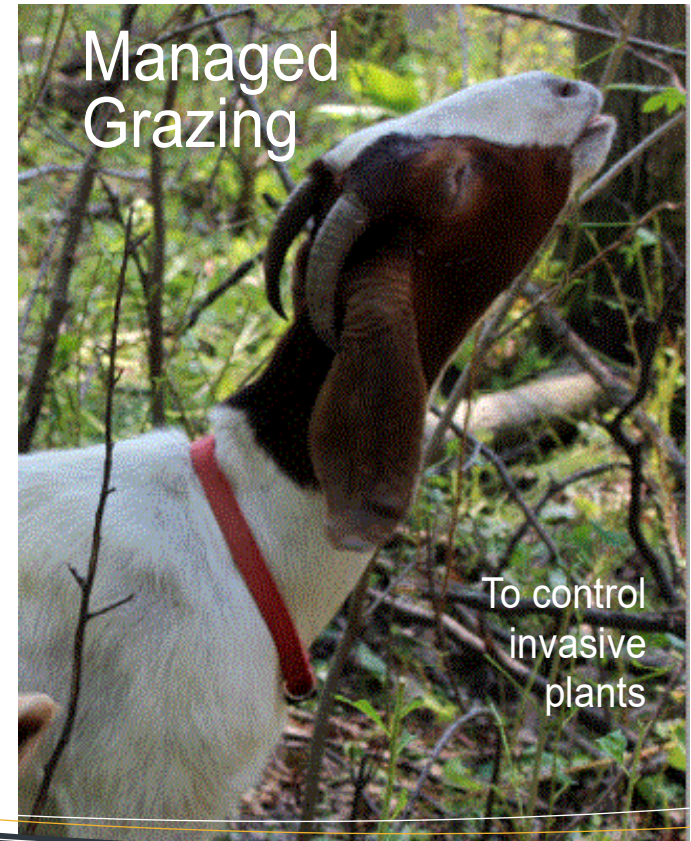


According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 "... These invaders, large and small, have devastating effects on U.S. wildlife. Invasive species are one of the leading threats to native wildlife. Approximately 42% of threatened or endangered species are at risk primarily due to invasive species."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### PRESCRIBED GRAZING HAS ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER MANAGEMENT METHODS.

- Treatments can be removed at any time without leaving chemical residues or long-term effects.
- Treatments can be applied to steep, rocky, and remote terrain.
- Grazing animals convert the target species into saleable product such as meat or wool.
- Grazing can provide long-term management while reducing the use of herbicides.

### PARTNERING WITH HIAWATHA VALLEY RC&D

This project was developed by Hiawatha Valley RC&D to demonstrate the value of grazing in the control terrestrial invasive species in a cost effective and environmentally friendly manner. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



## CONTROLLING TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANTS WITH GRAZING ANIMALS

Hiawatha Valley  
 Resource Conservation  
 and Development

# ADVANCING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GRAZING INVASIVE PLANTS TO HELP SLOW THEIR ADVANCE

## Grazing is part of the system

This project recognizes that our desired control invasive plants will require our constant attention. We also believe that grazing will be only one tool used in addressing the problem. In some cases, grazing alone can be effective in control. In other cases grazing can improve the effectiveness of other treatments.

Prescribed Grazing can open up densely vegetated areas, allowing access to further control the area with physical or chemical methods.

Grazing in itself is a biological control of plants. We are evaluating how grazing might create opportunities to conduct prescribed burning for additional control - under professional guidance.

In addition, we are interested in demonstrating how livestock can be used to deter invasive plants while incorporating the seeds of desirable native plants.

## Additional benefits of the project

Hiawatha Valley RC&D strives to carry out projects that improve the environment while creating economic benefits for our communities and citizens.

Whether it is a larger livestock producer seizing the opportunity for inexpensive forage; an urban person taking on the invasive species while providing sustenance similar to a community garden; or a young person's livestock project – utilizing livestock to control invasive species can be a supplement to a family's income.

This project will evaluate the “gains” provided and educate others on the business aspects of grazing invasive plants.

Also, it is preferable to catch species early and contain or eradicate them before they spread. This project supports the establishment of experienced herdsman with portable equipment for rapid response

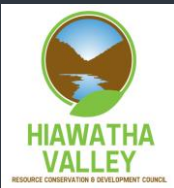
## Grazing Management Plans

Grazing Management plans were developed to address the specific site and invasive species of concern.

These plans considered alternatives for fencing systems, determined paddock sizes and rotations to effectively diminish the plant vigor and/or interrupt reproduction.

Plans also laid out trails and openings to allow safe and effective fencing of the paddocks and planned for water and supplemental feed options.

Implementation is monitored and the plans are adjusted as needed.



If you're interested in the project results, or considering a grazing enterprise to help battle invasive or otherwise undesirable plants, contact Hiawatha Valley RC&D for assistance.