Ecological Livestock Raising

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Introduction

State the purpose of the discussion

Identify yourself
Ecological livestock raising

- What livestock do we raise?
- What are the methods we use?
  - What are our markets?
- What are the economics of small-scale and self-sufficient production?
- Is ecological livestock raising different from organic?
State the main ideas you'll be talking about.
Topic Three

Details about this topic

Supporting information and examples

How it relates to your audience
Real Life

Give an example or real life anecdote

Sympathize with the audience's situation if appropriate
Methods

- Animal and vegetative health
- Rotational grazing and feeding
  - Soil fertility
  - Water cycling
What This Means

Add a strong statement that summarizes how you feel or think about this topic.

Summarize key points you want your audience to remember.
Next Steps

Summarize any actions required of your audience

Summarize any follow up action items required of you
Winter compost

• Temperature 120-160 degrees Fahrenheit

• Pathogens killed, bacteria and fungi flourish

• NPK fixed, cannot leach in water, volatize in air
Summer compost

- In Spring compost moved outside
  - Compost heap cools
  - Earthworms move in
  - Fecal matter is mineralized
- Worm castings perfectly balanced plant food
In field composting

• 90,000 lbs DM (manure) left in fields annually

  • Pulled into soil by beetles, earthworms

  • Decomposed by microorganisms (1 bill/tsp soil)

  • Bacteria and fungi immobilize N in their bodies

    • Protozoa and nematodes feed on microorganisms, release plant-available NH4+

  • Balance pathogenic microorganisms
Rotational grazing and feeding

- Summer cattle forage in temporary paddocks sized to seasonal growth rates (24 AU/1 ¼ ac)
  - Winter cattle feed on hay along temporary fences
  - Fences moved incrementally to manure field for succession crop
  - Winter feeding area planted to barley in spring
  - Barley cycles excess nutrients as feed grain, straw
Double-digging, cover crops, and biodynamic preparations

- Permanent garden and field crop beds are double-dug to increase o-horizon
- Cover crops increase soil organic matter and feed microorganisms
- Biodynamic preparations regulate metabolic processes