VOISIN RATIONAL GRAZING SYSTEM AND SILVOPASTORIL WITH NATIVE SPECIES

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The Voisin Rational grazing system is a methodology that enables the livestock production on pasture, aiding in increasing the productivity and quality of pastures.

Within the Voisin system pasture is divided with electric fences in small batches (paddocks), which are temporarily occupied by livestock. The standing time of each paddock is proportional to the pasture recovery time after occupation, which depends on conditions such as soil quality, precipitation and temperature, in other words respects the physiology of plant growth. For example, if the resting time is 30 days and the farmer occupy two paddocks per day, he will need a total of 60 pickets on the property. Therefore, the system allows a great development of forage in different paddocks, increasing production. The water is pumped from the rivers and streams to a reservoir and subsequently distributed to each paddock.

In properties where this system is implemented, there is the aim of recover the riparian areas, in this way preserving the water quality, reducing the problem with erosion and re-establish the local biodiversity, ensuring a more sustainable production.

In General, the deployment of Voisin is related to social, economic and environmental improvements, such as: the) Earth higher productivity, increasing profits for farmers; b) increased capacity of the pasture lands, increase in the herd and the quality of fodder; c) reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by the animals; d) improvement of the structure and fertility of the soil by favouring the biocoenosis, improving infiltration and water retention, and water quality improvement) due to the reduction in the use of fertilizers and pesticides; f) improvement in animal health.

With all these advantages, there is one aspect that is not supplied, which is one of the bigger challenges of Voisin Rational Grazing, the lack of shade for the cows, an effect that inflicts damage to animal welfare by reducing

production and milk quality. To meet this need, it was created the idea of planting trees in pasture, in order to provide shade for animals and to improve soil conditions. That is, the introduction of a Silvipastoril system.

Silvipastoris systems are very interesting in livestock production, because with the increased complexity of the system, it is expected an increase of productivity and improvement of animal welfare, due to the condition of the shade provided by trees that generates an environment more pleasant and healthy for the animals. The use of native species to compose this system is important because it promotes a restoration of the original landscape, conserving the biodiversity of the biome. In addition to the shade and the maintenance of biodiversity, the use of these species of native trees offers other benefits such as: encouraging the production of honey and fruit (for example, the acai), in addition to the use of wood in species with the characteristic of regrowth. The laminar erosion control and recovery of degraded pastures are also expected features in a Silvipastoril system.

In this way, with fusion of these two productive techniques, we obtain a more sustainable production, providing a better quality of life of the peasants, with the increase of income and the preservation of natural resources; the production of healthier products with higher added value, because it is a more ecological management; and the incentive for farmers to regain the local biodiversity.

This new methodology is illustrated in Figure illustrative of a scale model, which follows below. You can see in this the pickets formed, the recovery of riparian forest, with the restoration of native fauna and forestation.

IMAGE 01. Aerial view of model. FONT: Luiz, 2012.

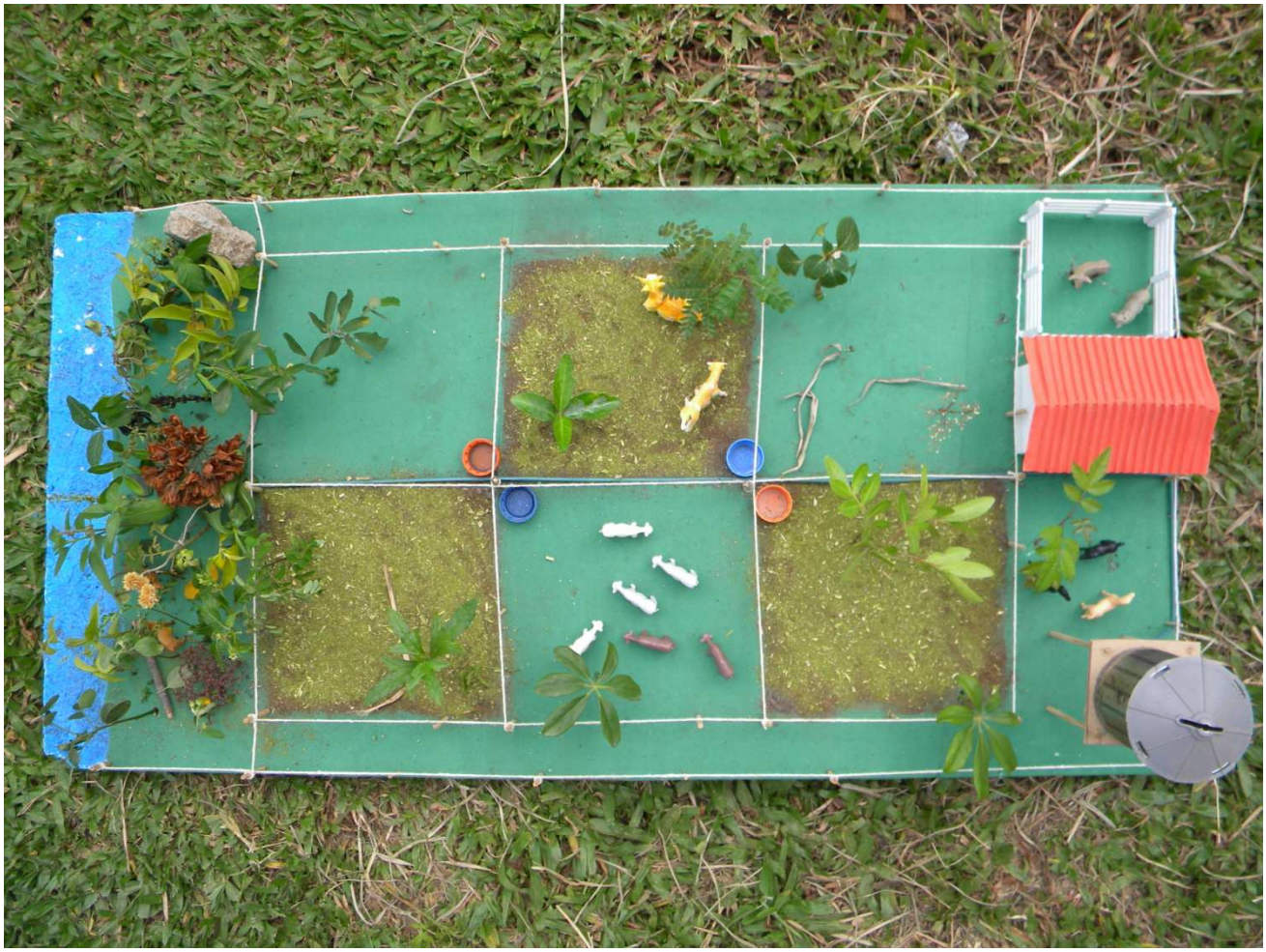

IMAGE 02. Diagonal view of the model. FONT: Luiz, 2012.