

## Goats to naturally mow green areas

**2009 - Whole of France / Alsace**

Rombach Le Franc, Haut Rhin (68)

### Thématiques

URBAN PLANNING - LIVING ENVIRONMENT

GREEN AREAS - BIODIVERSITY - LANDSCAPE

NOISE

PRIVATE / PUBLIC / CHARITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Summary : Breeders start to rent out their goats to individuals and companies so as to mow their lawn and clear weeds and brush.



French breeders have started to suggest the use of goats to local municipalities to mow some green areas or clear brush. The town of Rombach Le Franc (820 inhabitants), located in the Haut-Rhin region, has signed a 4-year contract with a local breeder to clear brush on a 5.5 ha of fallow land, improving the field's pastoral value. 15 goats were needed to start with.

Benefits are numerous :

- \* Goats can go where tractors cannot
- \* No carbon emission
- \* No engine noise
- \* No additional cost for the municipality
- \* This diet is well suitable for goats, an interesting factor for the breeder
- \* It is a well appreciated entertainment

Private companies also make a step forward. In this framework, Google's headquarters in Mountain View decided to rent some 200 goats from the California Grazing Company to mow their surrounding fields and clear weeds and brush to reduce fire hazard. It took about a week to do the job, goats' droppings also serving as a land fertilizer. The cost is similar as machine mowing, while

being environmentally friendly with no carbon emission.

### **Liens**

<http://www.valdargent.com/ccva/rombach.htm>

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2009/05/mowing-with-goats.html>

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