

# Rural land for photovoltaic panels



## Overview

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Agrisolar, also called agrivoltaics, is the co-location of agriculture and solar within the landscape. NREL researcher Jordan Macknick works with teams from University of Massachusetts (UMass) Clean Energy Extension and Hyperion on a photovoltaic dual-use research project at the UMass Crop Animal Research and Education Center in South Deerfield, MA. Photo by Dennis Schroeder / NREL. AgriSolar. Across the country, solar farms have experienced rapid growth, supported by advancements in technology, cost reductions, and policy initiatives such as state-level renewable portfolio standards and tax credits. Vegetables and berries are the leading crops. While land leases generally offer protection for landowners so that farms can be reclaimed from the solar installations, in practice damage is already being done with remediation as long as 50 years in the future. The target for solar operations is increasingly in the Midwest, where government. One government grant program for solar panels on farms is called the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). But first, what's this about “photovoltaic” initiatives?

A photovoltaic system (PV system) is a more scientific word for the typical solar panel (or PV module) system we think of when we. In the race to meet renewable energy goals as demand rises across the United States, farm and ranch land is increasingly becoming a target for solar development. According to the American Farmland Trust's (AFT) Farms Under Threat: 2040 analysis, there is potential that 83% of solar built by 2040.

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### The Use and Potential of Agrivoltaics in the United States

Agrivoltaics are the co-location of ground-mounted rows of solar photovoltaic panels to produce electricity together with raising certain types of crops or livestock or providing pollinator ...

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### Solar Energy Expansion in Rural Communities , Focus on Ag

Department of Energy research projects solar energy to rise from 4% of our nation's total energy production to 45% by 2050, potentially requiring nearly 10.4 million acres of land in solar ...



### Harvesting the Sun-Twice: Agrivoltaics and Rural Land-Use

This dual land-use approach allows solar energy production to coexist with farming activities, from crop cultivation to livestock grazing and supporting pollinator habitats.

## Farm Solar Panel & Energy Grants: A Guide to ...

Solar panels on your farm can lower operational costs. Learn how to secure federal funding for solar energy on your farm or ranch.



## Farmer's Guide to Going Solar , Department of Energy

Locating solar energy on farmland could significantly increase the available land for solar development, while maintaining land in agricultural production and expanding economic opportunities for farmers, ...

## Agrisolar Ownership: A Guide for Farmers, Ranchers, Communities, ...

Agrisolar, also called agrivoltaics, is the co-location of agriculture and solar within the landscape. It includes solar co-located with crops, grazing, beekeeping, pollinator habitat, aquaculture, and farm or ...



## Agrivoltaics: An economic

## option for farmers and rural development



Agrivoltaics can reduce local opposition to solar projects on farmland and create new income streams across rural stakeholder groups. Agrivoltaics significantly reduces water usage and ...

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## Empowering Farms, Ranches, and Rural Communities: The Promise ...

For crops, solar panels can also provide beneficial shade, which helps reduce a plant's response to drought and heat stress while minimizing evaporation under the panels.



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## Solar Power Depletes Farmlands of Rich Soil

Solar energy is depleting farmlands of their rich soils in the U.S. Midwest. The solar industry is moving into the U.S. Midwest, drawn by cheaper land rents, access to electric ...



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## Agrivoltaics: Coming Soon to a Farm Near You?

Agrivoltaics is the use of land for both

agriculture and solar photovoltaic energy generation. It's also sometimes referred to as agrisolar, dual use solar, low impact solar.



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