



About the policy of solar power generation for farmers

How can farmers benefit from solar energy?

Farmers can benefit from solar energy in several ways--by leasing farmland for solar; installing a solar system on a house, barn, or other building; or through agrivoltaics. Agrivoltaics is defined as agriculture, such as crop production, livestock grazing, and pollinator habitat, located underneath solar panels and/or between rows of solar panels.

How can on-farm solar development help farmers and rural communities?

On-farm solar development can help meet the country's swelling demand for carbon-free energy, offer farmers and rural communities a consistent and long-term stream of income, and even boost agricultural productivity under the right circumstances.

Should solar energy be located on farmland?

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, rural communities, and the solar industry.

Can solar power a farm?

Whereas oil and gas wells require a minimum of 5-10 acres of land, solar can be deployed to whatever scale a farm owner desires or is able to accommodate (MineralWise, n.d.). This means that solar can be developed on land that is already unused or unirrigated by farmers, minimizing disruptions to existing farm production.

Does the federal government support solar projects in rural America?

In recent years, the federal government has aggressively stepped up its support of solar projects in rural America. Between 2002 and 2019, the USDA distributed over \$7.7 billion in grant aid to support renewable energy development in rural communities (USDA, n.d.).

Should farmers invest in solar power?

While a farmer's opportunity to capitalize on mineral rights is entirely dependent on whether or not there is an accessible oil or gas basin, photovoltaics are an economically viable investment for landowners across the country, and solar power is at its most productive (Adeh et al. 2019, 11442) when installed on croplands (McDonnell 2020).

2 · I didn't have the best opinion of solar on farm country. For me, as a farmer, it made me so sad to see good productive land go to solar panels," Hart said. ... farmer training, supportive policy, we see real opportunities for a next ...

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