



# Can solar power generate electricity to store livestock

Are solar panels crop and livestock compatible?

The center is evaluating the coexistence of solar panels and crops/livestock with a solar array consisting of three panels vertically stacked and elevated by a unique racking design that supports the panels 4 to 7 feet off the ground. This design allows 2- to 5-foot spaces between panel clusters, permitting light to reach the crops and grass growing beneath the panels.

Can solar energy be generated hand in hand with grazing livestock?

According to a research trial launched in 2010, solar energy can be generated while grazing livestock or growing crops. University of Massachusetts (UM) agronomist Stephen Herbert explains, "The purpose of our work has been to see if we could generate solar energy while keeping the land in agricultural production.

Can solar panels be used on farms?

Installing solar panels on farms helps solve another major problem: finding the space to collect enough sunlight to produce a bounty of electricity. Farmers can help by sharing their land, says Jordan Macknick. An environmental scientist, he works at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, or NREL. It's in Golden, Colo.

Can sheep graze on solar panels?

Blueberries aren't the only crop researchers want to pair with solar panels. One farm up Maine's coast lets sheep roam around panels installed there. And it's not alone. Silicon Ranch, a company based in Nashville, Tenn., is installing solar panels at 17 farms with sheep. Their grazing keeps the grass low, which means no one has to mow.

Are solar panels good for crops?

Jordan Macknick at the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Lab describes the benefits of bringing solar panels to farms. In many cases, the green crops may actually benefit from the panels' shade. Researchers are studying how all of these factors affect the health of crops.

Can solar energy be used to grow food?

Research suggests that growing food and generating solar energy can go together. Farmers who are planning on installing solar panels or are approached by a solar company for land development should consider keeping agriculture on the land in order to utilize solar energy for food production.

NOTE: This blog was originally published in April 2023, it was updated in August 2024 to reflect the latest information. Even the most ardent solar evangelists can agree on one limitation solar panels have: they only produce electricity when ...

Research shows that solar panels can benefit the growth of certain crops and the well-being of livestock.

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Agrivoltaics, the practice of producing food in the shade of solar panels, is an innovative strategy that combines the generation of ...

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