



# Solar power generation for livestock farming

Can solar energy be used for livestock farming?

Solar electrical energy could be co-generated with livestock farming, in addition to co-producing electricity and agricultural crops. According to Lytle et al. (2020), who proposed an agrivoltaic system design idea based on feeding rabbits, this system could increase overall income by 2.5 %-24 %, as each rabbit has a high value per unit weight.

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.

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.

What is agrivoltaics in livestock farming?

Agrivoltaics is the integration of agriculture and solar energy production and seeks to find synergies between the two to create a complementary system. Agrivoltaics relates to all agricultural activities. However, for the purpose of this report, solar integration with livestock farming is the focus.

Are solar farms agrivoltaic?

Whilst it is difficult to identify how many of these developments are designed to allow agrivoltaics, Lodestone Energy (2023) claims that their solar farms have been designed with agrivoltaics in mind. When the solar farms are operational, they are expecting over 85% of baseline farming yield to be achievable (Lodestone Energy, 2023).

Will agricultural land be used for solar energy?

Agricultural land in the U.S. has the technical potential to provide 27 terawatts of solar energy capacity. This is a quarter of the total U.S. solar energy capacity of 115 TW. Only 0.3% of farmland is expected to be used for solar energy by 2035. Will using land for solar panels drive up the price of food?

"Planting" solar panels into the middle of agricultural fields or livestock pastures sounds like an unlikely home for renewable energy. Still, agrivoltaics -- a renewable energy approach that shares agricultural land with ...



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