



# Rural investment in photovoltaic panels





## Overview

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Agrivoltaics can reduce local opposition to solar projects on farmland and create new income streams across rural stakeholder groups. According to the American Farmland Trust's (AFT) Farms Under Threat: 2040 analysis, there is potential that 83% of solar built by 2040 will be sited on farmland within the United States. 1 Without intervention, this landscape-scale change could have major impacts on the future of farming and food. Based on feedback, USDA and DOE recommitted to working together and developed an approach to addressing the needs of farmers and community priorities while also enabling a greater diversity of energy options. The plan includes: Developing new resources and platforms to share information for farmers. Agrivoltaics combine the production of crops or livestock with the generation of electricity from solar panels. Sheep grazing is the most popular livestock type. Vegetables and berries are the leading crops. Solar energy can provide numerous benefits but, like most things, also has its share of drawbacks. This Market Intel will dive deeper into solar energy's expansion. 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. As shown in Map 1, roughly 18% of ground-mounted PV facilities in the U.



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### Solar energy implementation in rural communities and its contributions

The review highlights solar energy's role in rural areas, job creation, healthcare, education, and economic empowerment.

### [The Use and Potential of Agrivoltaics in the United States](#)

Agrivoltaics combine the production of crops or livestock with the generation of electricity from solar panels. To date, the number of agrivoltaics projects has been modest, about 600 ...



### [Harvesting the Sun-Twice: Agrivoltaics and Rural Land-Use](#)

As efforts to conserve farmland intersects with the growth in renewable energy, agrivoltaics emerges as a solution to integrate agriculture and solar photovoltaic (PV) infrastructure.

### [Solar Energy Initiatives in Rural Communities](#)

Solar energy initiatives have become increasingly important in rural communities as a means of ensuring access to clean and sustainable energy sources. This article explores the ...



### [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 ...

### [Empowering Farms, Ranches, and Rural Communities: The Promise ...](#)

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.



### [USDA & DOE Solar Energy and Farming Initiatives](#)

Research examines the social, economic, and operational impacts of agrivoltaics on farmers, rural communities, and rural electric cooperatives. Learn more about DOE's agrivoltaics research.



### [Solar Energy Expansion and its Impacts on Rural Communities](#)



This Market Intel will dive deeper into solar energy's expansion and economic impacts, particularly in rural America, where there is great tension between private property rights and ...



### [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.

### [Lighting the Way for Agrivoltaics: How NREL Empowers Communities ...](#)

With their reflective, smooth glass sheen, stiff metal posts, and electric wiring, you might be surprised to learn that solar fields can be sites of thriving biodiversity, regenerative agriculture, ...





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