



Benefits of grazing under photovoltaic panels





Overview

Sheep grazing on solar farms helps control weeds and vegetation that could otherwise shade panels or obstruct maintenance, reducing the need for mowing or herbicides. Discover how solar grazing with sheep supports renewable energy, improves soil health, and benefits farmers, as practiced by the American Grassfed Association producers. Solar grazing is an innovative practice gaining momentum across the United States, where sheep graze beneath and around solar. Agrivoltaics refer to growing crops, building pollinator habitats or raising livestock underneath solar panels. What are the benefits?

Agrivoltaic systems can improve land use by allowing you to produce more. Livestock are a very effective vegetative management tool for community and utility solar energy systems. Using livestock to manage vegetation at solar sites helps maintain the agricultural use of the land, provides new income streams for growing vegetation on solar farms with livestock, typically sheep. Despite approximately 7-11% of existing installed solar capacity utilizing solar grazing in 2024, solar grazing research is still limited.



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[Solar Grazing with Sheep -- A Win-Win for Renewable Energy and](#)

Solar grazing is an innovative practice gaining momentum across the United States, where sheep graze beneath and around solar panels on solar farms. This dual-use approach not only supports clean energy production ...

[Agrivoltaic opportunities: Grazing livestock in solar energy systems](#)

Solar grazing, as a dual land-use, allows the Michigan sheep industry to meet the market demand for lamb, support rural economies, and keep farmland in production all while supporting the ...



[Sheep grazing as sustainable vegetation management for solar energy](#)

Overall, this study highlights the potential for solar grazing as a beneficial alternative to mechanical mowing for enhanced ecologically sustainable vegetation management at solar sites, promoting ...

[Solar Grazing - a Win for Farmers, Developers and the Grid](#)

Pairing sheep grazing with solar projects can diversify income, inject the grid with additional energy to help meet the rising demand, preserve farmland for agricultural production, and support family ...



[Sheep Grazing Under Solar Panels: Dual Land Use , Education](#)

By grazing livestock, particularly sheep grazing under solar panels, farms remain productive while generating clean energy. This agrivoltaic approach solves the challenge of balancing land for food production ...



[Raising livestock and crops under solar panels , UMN Extension](#)

Grazing under solar panels can increase your pasture acres without buying or renting additional land or fencing infrastructure. At the same time, the owner of the solar site may benefit from a decrease in costs related to ...



What and Why

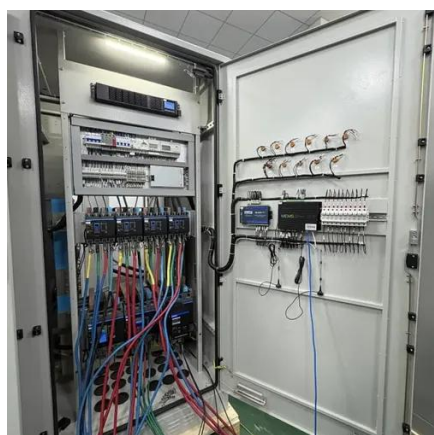
Solar grazing reduces or eliminates the need for mowing at solar sites, reducing emissions and costs. With solar grazing, the vegetation at solar sites becomes a source of nutrition and a pasture for sheep.

[Solar Grazing: A Win-Win for Farms and](#)



Renewable Energy

Solar grazing involves raising sheep or other livestock under and around solar panel arrays. This dual-use approach not only generates clean electricity but also provides numerous benefits for farmers and ...



Solar grazing: Sheep manage vegetation at solar farms, boost agriculture

Sheep are small and nimble and can graze under the panels, even those that are low to the ground, and reduce the need for motorized mowing. In turn, the panels provide shade and shelter, protecting ...

Cattle Voltaics: Maximizing Land Use with Solar Cattle Grazing

The diversification strengthens farm resilience and provides a stable revenue stream. Additionally, the shade created by solar panels reduces heat stress in cattle, which can lead to improved lactation rates and ...





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