



Fully automatic sheep raising equipment under photovoltaic panels

Can sheep graze around solar panels?

Sheep graze along arrays of solar panels in Hammond, Minnesota. 'Solar grazing' around panels is providing a lifeline to the US shepherding sector as clean energy expands. Stung by high fuel costs and a labor squeeze, some clean energy companies are turning to an unlikely ally -- flocks of sheep -- to keep their solar panels out of the shade.

Are solar panels good for grazing livestock?

Solar arrays can make a great home for grazing livestock, with the panels offering shade and shelter to the animals, who in turn keep the vegetation under the panels trimmed. Photo from Lexie Hain, Lightsource by It is hard to find a flock of sheep nestled under an array of solar panels. "Sheep are late risers.

What is solar grazing & agrivoltaics?

"Agrivoltaics," or the dual use of land for solar power and agriculture, is a way for both industries to utilize the same ground. The American Solar Grazing Association, founded in 2018, estimates about 5,000 sheep are currently maintaining US solar sites.

Are sheep better than goats on solar farms?

There are a few reasons sheep are the superior choice for grazing on solar farms. For one, they are shorter than cows and horses. They will also eat most kinds of forage, which helps keep plant growth at bay. Goats, on the other hand, will chew pretty much anything, which is a bit of a risk on solar farms.

Are sheep better suited for solar?

The practice is also in use in parts of Canada, the UK, France, Japan, Australia and South America, it said. In some instances, sheep are better suited to maneuver around solar panels than conventional mowers and help reduce carbon emissions. For the solar companies, the tie-up brings potential cost savings and a reduced carbon footprint.

Can you find a flock of sheep under solar panels?

It is hard to find a flock of sheep nestled under an array of solar panels. "Sheep are late risers. You won't hear them when you enter the site for an early morning walk. What you hear first are insects: crickets, little frogs.

Raising the livestock in the US could also bolster local economies. There are a few reasons sheep are the superior choice for grazing on solar farms. For one, they are shorter than cows and horses.

Maneuvering 15-foot-wide equipment works fairly well, and 17-foot and even 20-foot widths can still work. "I could get my 20-foot drill in there," Moser said. "I just have to be careful." Arnold speculated that some ...



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