

- FEBRUARY 11, 2021 -

Practical Advice for Solar Grazing



- PRESENTED BY -



ASGA

American Solar Grazing Association

- HOSTED BY -



Food Animal Concerns Trust

Introductions



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that works to ensure that all food-producing animals are raised in a humane and healthy manner.



- **Larissa McKenna**
- Humane Farming Program Director
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- Website: foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer

FACT's services to support livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Conference scholarships - ongoing**
- **Free webinars**
- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**
- **Humane Farming Mentorship Program**

Our Panelists



- > Lexie Hain
- > Julie Bishop
- > Lewis Fox
- > Brock Phillips
- > Judy St. Leger

What is solar grazing?



What type of sheep do you graze at solar sites?



Can you practice solar grazing with other animals?



How does beekeeping relate to solar grazing?



Photo by Frank St. Leger

What are other conservation benefits associated with solar farms?



What is needed for profitability?



How has solar grazing impacted your lambing schedule?



...and how have these changes impacted your bottom line?

Recommendations for approaching solar companies to graze your animals



Risks of Solar Grazing +/-

- **Installed Costs vs other dual use:**

NREL Capital Costs for Dual-Use PV Installations (2020): Horowitz, Ramasay, Macknick, Margolis

“PV + Grazing reduce some site preparation costs...” and increase with the addition of wells

- **Solar PV Performance:** Low risk to solar infrastructure with solar grazing than conventional management. *ASGA & NYSERDA 2023*
- **Biosecurity:** Follow state & federal standards for livestock
- Overall **site security** benefits: sites are visited regularly by farmers
- Solar Management concerns #1: sheep manure
 - Better soil health is usually the result.
 - Move sheep on a rotation/ exclude concrete pads
 - *ASGA water quality paper Spring 2021*
- Management concern #2: Sheep die sometimes.
 - Off site composting plan

Animal handling, health and welfare at solar sites



The future of solar grazing and how to get involved



**American Solar
Grazing Association**



solargrazing.org/

Connect with **FACT**

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Upcoming webinars

- 🐔 **February 25:** Pasture-Based Livestock: Advancing Ecological, Economic, and Emotional Resilience
- 🐔 **March 10:** Federal Funding Opportunities for Livestock Farmers

Grants, Scholarships, Mentorship & More!

- 🐔 **Handouts on nutritional benefits of pasture-raised animals**
- 🐔 **Scholarships – ongoing**
- 🐔 Sign up for emails @ foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/

Join us on social media

