

## Wind benefits agriculture

Windfarms provide an array of benefits to farmers and farming communities.

- Stable income for farmers – one that is drought resistant and flood proof
- Keeps land in agriculture – preserving family farms and protecting open spaces

## Wind helps farming communities

Field work conducted in Michigan's Thumb by the University of Michigan's Ford Policy School<sup>1</sup> finds that landowners with wind turbines on their property:

- Invest twice as much money in their farms—in home improvements, outbuildings, farm equipment -- than landowners in townships without windfarms.
- Bought more farmland in the last 5 years than other landowners.
- Are more likely to believe that their land will be farmed in the future and less likely to believe their land will go idle than other landowners.
- Are more likely to have a succession plan in place for their farm than other landowners.



<b>Question: Since 2008, about how much money have you spent on . . .</b>		
	<b>Average of all responses</b>	<b>Average of those with turbines on their property</b>
...improvements to your home?	\$26,897	\$41,970
...improvements to your outbuildings?	\$36,521	\$71,780
...improvements to your field drainage and irrigation?	\$25,321	\$57,863
...purchasing new or used farm equipment?	\$125,027	\$279,539

## Windfarms can improve crop production

New research from Iowa State University indicates that windfarms actually improve crop production. Corn and soybeans benefit from turbulence produced by wind turbines by decreasing temperatures during the day and increasing temperatures at night.<sup>2</sup>

## Windfarms benefit everyone

Windfarms benefit our nation, state and local communities by improving our economy, environment and human health.

- New capital investments in rural communities generate tax revenues and landowner income.
- Windfarm tax revenue supports schools, local government and an array of community services.
- Farmers typically invest their money locally and the increased income and revenues help local businesses, including restaurants, auto and farm implement dealers, farm service providers, etc.

1. Mills, S. 2015. <https://goo.gl/roA8fb>

2. <http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2016/12/09/windturbulence>