

# Arkansas Renewables & Agriculture

## Renewable Energy and Prime Farmland

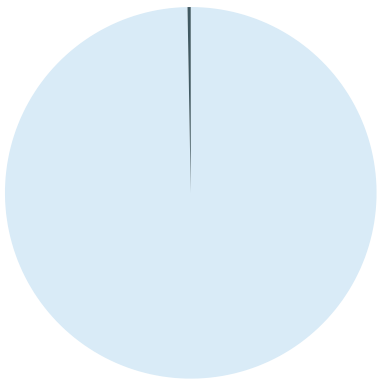
Arkansas is home to about 13.7 million acres of farmland, about 8.3 million acres of which are considered “prime.”<sup>1</sup>

- Wind and solar are compatible and profitable ways farmers can grow their business as the stewards of their own land.
- Limiting use of prime farmland is unnecessary, and doing so infringes upon private property rights. All possible sites should be evaluated to best serve the community, the environment and our clean energy needs.

## For Perspective...

There are 2,721 MW of renewables under construction and in advanced development across Arkansas, requiring approximately 23,130 acres of land. If every renewable farm were sited on prime farmland, only 0.28% of Arkansas’s prime farmland would be used.<sup>2</sup>

Arkansas Prime Farmland<sup>1</sup>



- Prime Farmland
- Land used for renewables in the pipeline

## Renewable Land Use

Land used for renewable energy remains versatile, coexisting with a variety of conservation efforts.

- An average of 0.75-1 acre of land are required to produce one megawatt (MW) of electricity from wind energy.<sup>3</sup>
- Resting the land for renewable energy development can preserve and restore farmland, making it even more productive in the future after years of rest and regeneration.

## prime·farm·land

NOUN

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.

## Agrivoltaics: A Value-Added Farmer Friendly Solution

Combining traditional farming and solar technology is called agrivoltaics.<sup>4</sup>

Agrivoltaics have a wide range of benefits for farmers, both immediate and long-term. Altogether, conservation and vegetation plans amidst renewables lead to healthier soil, improved water storage and filtration, sequestration of carbon, erosion reduction, habitat preservation and lower local energy costs.<sup>5</sup>

## Property Rights

A landowner has the right to make decisions about how their land is used.

Renewables...

- Help diversify income portfolios.
- Are harvested all year long.
- Are drought-proof, high-yield land outputs that can produce for decades at a time without expensive inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation.

## Are Renewables Taking Prime Farmland From the Food Sector?

No.

The USDA National Resources Inventory takes stock of existing prime farmland, revealing that there are ample acres of usable farmland for both the food and energy sectors. About 64% of the 313.7 million acres of prime farmland in the US are considered cropland, which are not exclusive to food production. Other purposes include growth of ethanol-producing crops, urban sprawl and rural transportation.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, thanks to innovation in biotechnology and seed blends, corn and soybean yields expand even as acreage used for farming decreases.<sup>7</sup>

## Renewables are cash crops with a small footprint.

### Sources

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American Clean Power Estimates  
**AR Farmers, Ranchers,  
& Landowners Receive**

**\$2.1 Million**

**in annual land-lease  
payments from  
renewable energy**

American Clean Power Estimates  
**AR Local Communities  
Receive**

**\$1.7 Million**

**in annual property,  
state, and local taxes  
from renewable energy**