

Marguerite Wells



Farmer
Farm Bureau
Member
Solar Landowner
Solar Grazer
Solar Developer



Scale of agrivoltaics



Jack's Solar Garden: 1.2 MW, 4 acres of land

Vegetables grown with hand tools

Topaz Solar Farm, San Luis Obispo, CO, 550 MW, 3350 acres of panels

Grazed by several thousand sheep since 2014

The cost of labor is a major driver in farmer decision-making

You CAN grow almost any crop between solar panels, the question is whether it is labor efficient to do so, thus cost-efficient

International Agrivoltaics



**Goji Berry Farm under Solar, China 1,000 MW:
Apple and Pear Orchard, Australia**

Factors:

Cost of labor

Cost of energy

Farmland availability

Spacing Panels- Greater land use



Solar Grazing



Strong US Lamb market

Supports pollinators

Requires no changes by solar developer

Can be used on large acreages

Low labor requirement- low cost

Sheep grazing is agriculture per USDA

American Solar Grazing Association

“Just raise the panels up a little bit”

- For every extra 1 foot up in the air, you need 2 more feet of post belowground- 3' total extra steel post length
 - Workers cannot stand on the ground- OSHA rules, doubles the labor required
 - Maintenance workers need on-site lifts to work



Costs

Materials
Labor
Maintenance

Adds millions in facility cost
Gets passed on to ratepayers
Unbalanced differential between
cost of solar and value of ag crops