



News Sheep are hiding under the 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.

Can solar panels help Minnesota sheep farmers graze under solar panels?

Cannon Valley Graziers sheep graze under solar panels at a U.S. Solar installation in Stacy, Minn., on June 6. Some Minnesota sheep farmers have found a way to help their bottom line by contracting with solar farms to have flocks tidy up under the panels by eating the undergrowth.

Can a solar farm help a sheep farm?

Some Minnesota sheep farmers have found a way to help their bottom line by contracting with solar farms to have flocks tidy up under the panels by eating the undergrowth. In rural Chisago County, clippers buzz and wool falls like snow as a flock of about 100 sheep gets a haircut.

Is grazing cattle under solar panels a good idea?

There is growing interest in grazing cattle underneath solar panels. This year, the Energy Department launched the Large Animal and Solar System Operations (LASSO) Prize, providing millions of dollars for research around solar development and cattle grazing.

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.

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.



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