

B. Articles

I have also considered a number of articles on this subject as well as conclusions and analysis as noted below.

Farm Journal Guest Editor, March 22, 2021 – Solar’s Impact on Rural Property Values

Andy Ames, ASFMRA (American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers) published this article that includes a discussion of his survey of appraisers and studies on the question of property value related to solar farms. He discusses the university studies that I have cited as well as Patricia McGarr, MAI.

He also discusses the findings of Donald A. Fisher, ARA, who served six years at the Chair of the ASFMRA’s National Appraisal Review Committee. He is also the Executive Vice President of the CNY Pomeroy Appraiser and has conducted several market studies on solar farms and property impact. He is quoted in the article as saying, “Most of the locations were in either suburban or rural areas, and all of those studies found either a neutral impact, or ironically, a positive impact, where values on properties after installation of solar farms went up higher than time trends.”

Howard Halderman, AFM, President and CEO of Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management attended the ASFMRA solar talk hosted by the Indiana Chapter of the ASFMRA and he concludes that other rural properties would likely see no impact and farmers and landowners shown even consider possible benefits. “In some cases, farmers who rent land to a solar company will insure the viability of their farming operation for a longer time period. This makes them better long-term tenants or land buyers so one can argue that higher rents and land values will follow due to the positive impact the solar leases offer.”

More recently in August 2022, Donald Fisher, ARA, MAI and myself led a webinar on this topic for the ASFMRA discussing the issues, the university studies and specific examples of solar farms having no impact on adjoining property values.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Top Five Large-Scale Solar Myths, February 3, 2016

Megan Day reports from NREL regarding a number of concerns neighbors often express. Myth #4 regarding property value impacts addresses specifically the numerous studies on wind farms that show no impact on property value and that solar farms have a significantly reduced visual impact from wind farms. She highlights that the appearance can be addressed through mitigation measures to reduce visual impacts of solar farms through vegetative screening. Such mitigations are not available to wind farms given the height of the windmills and again, those studies show no impact on value adjoining wind farms.

North Carolina State University: NC Clean Energy Technology Center White Paper: Balancing Agricultural Productivity with Ground-Based Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development (Version 2), May 2019

Tommy Cleveland and David Sarkisian wrote a white paper for NCSU NC Clean Energy Technology Center regarding the potential impacts to agricultural productivity from a solar farm use. I have interviewed Tommy Cleveland on numerous occasions and I have also heard him speak on these issues at length as well. He addresses many of the common questions regarding how solar farms work and a detailed explanation of how solar farms do not cause significant impacts on the soils, erosion and other such concerns. This is a heavily researched paper with the references included.

North Carolina State University: NC Clean Energy Technology Center White Paper: Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics, May 2017