

2022BCDCC-100-AGR-11/14/22022 - Agrivoltaics Benefits to Eastern Washington

Whereas, Eastern Washington State is experiencing reduced and changing precipitation patterns which impacts agriculture and lead to drop in water levels of aquifers;

Whereas, Eastern Washington State can benefit from increasing profitability and expansion of smaller scale specialty farming with reduced water needs;

Whereas, for comparison, Eastern Washington State has significantly less rainfall than Tucson, Az at 8.5” average vs 11.5” average for Tucson;

Whereas, feasibility of crops such as berries, melons, speciality and heritage (landrace) plants and grazing speciality heritage livestock (red wattle pigs or red bourbon turkeys for example) is based on the programs underway at the University of Arizona (1)(2) Colorado State University(4), and National Renewable Energy Laboratory(NREL) (3) in Boulder, Colorado;

Whereas, Eastern Washington State is a prime area of Solar Power Developments: and long standing agricultural industry including grazing livestock (5),(6),(7),(8);

Whereas, agrivoltaics technology could also be important in foreign aid programs in arid areas or areas that are getting drier due to Global Warming and associated Climate Change and from whom US imports;

Be is resolved that:

Washington State Democratic Party shall work with State and Federal legislators, state agencies, WSU and federal legislators to seek funding on infrastructure from USDOE NREL for demonstrations in applying agrivoltaics;

Be it Further resolved that Washington State Democratic Party should contact Energy Northwest about the new Solar Panel Demonstration regarding a collaboration with Richland Wa WSU Branch Campus to implement agrivoltaic demonstrations in conjunction with their solar panel array as part of a demonstration program;

Be it Finally resolved that funding will be sought from USDA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture), USDOE NREL(Boulder, Colorado) and private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;

1.<https://research.arizona.edu/stories/what-is-agrivoltaics>

2.<https://news.arizona.edu/story/agrivoltaics-across-food-water-energy-nexus>

3.www.nrel.gov

4.<https://agsci.source.colostate.edu/researcher/researchers-testing-whether-speciality-crops-solar-panels-can-thrive-together/>

5. <https://www.solargrazing.org>, What is Solar Grazing and How Does it Work.
6. <https://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclerpro> Photovoltaic Panels as Shading for Resources for Live Stock. Journal of Cleaner Production, 258(2020)
7. <https://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclerpro> Photovoltaic Panels as Shading for Resources for Live Stock. Journal of Cleaner Production, 258(2020)
8. Solar PV Power Potential is Greatest Over Croplands; Elnaz H. Adeh, Stephen P. Good, M. Calaf, and Chad W. Higgins; www.nature.com/Scientific-reports; 07 August 2019

BCDCC Chair _____

BCDCC Secretary _____