

## **2023BCDCC-100-AGR-11302023 - Agrivoltaics Benefits to Eastern Washington**

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Whereas, Eastern Washington State is experiencing reduced and changing precipitation patterns which impacts agriculture and lead to drop in water levels of aquifers, by comparison, South Central Washington State has significantly less rainfall than desert Tucson, Az at 8.5” average vs 11.5” average for Tucson. Eastern Washington is expected to experience continuing reduction in total precipitation (1);

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 (2)(3), National Renewable Energy Laboratory(NREL) (4) in Boulder, Colorado, and Colorado State University(5);

Whereas, Eastern Washington State farmers can benefit from increasing profitability and expansion of smaller scale specialty farming with reduced water needs and stream of revenue from sales of electricity(10);

Whereas, Eastern Washington State is a prime area of Solar Power Developments: and long standing agricultural industry from irrigated crops to grazing livestock (6),(7),(8),(9), and solar is highly compatible with both crops and grazing;

Whereas, Oregon State University has a mature program in Agrivoltaics and is supporting a new project HOPP Hills near Yakima, Washington to support grazing under solar panals.

Therefore Be it Resolved:

The Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee will work with State and Federal legislators, state agencies, and federal legislators to seek

funding on infrastructure from USDOE NREL for demonstrations in applying agrivoltaics;

1. <https://www.pnnl.gov/science/highlights/highlight.asp?id=620>
2. <https://research.arizona.edu/stories/what-is-agrivoltaics>
3. <https://news.arizona.edu/story/agrivoltaics-across-food-water-energy-nexus>
4. [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)
5. <https://agsci.source.colostate.edu/researcher/researchers-testing-whether-specialty-crops-solar-panels-can-thrive-together/>
7. <https://www.solargrazing.org>, What is Solar Grazing and How Does it Work.
8. <https://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclerpro> Photovoltaic Panels as Shading for Resources for Live Stock. Journal of Cleaner Production, 258(2020)
9. <https://www.nature.com/Scientific-reports>; Solar PV Power Potential is Greatest Over Croplands; Elnaz H. Adeh, Stephen P. Good, M. Calaf, and Chad W. Higgens; 07 August 2019
10. <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/14/1054942590/Solar-energy-colorado-garden-farm-land>

BCDCC Chair

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Misty Muchlinski, BCDCC Chair

Date

BCDCC Secretary

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John Masulonis, BCDCC Secretary

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