

# Wind Energy & Agriculture

## Wind Benefits Agriculture!

Windfarms provide an array of benefits to farmers and farming communities:

- Stable income for farmers that is drought resistant and flood proof
- Keeps land in agricultural use while preserving family farms and protecting open space

## Wind Helps Farming Communities Thrive!

Field work conducted in the University of Michigan's Ford Policy School finds that **landowners with wind turbines on their property:**<sup>1</sup>

- Invest twice as much money in their farms, such as home improvements, outbuildings, and farm equipment, than landowners in townships without wind farms
- Bought more farmland in the last 5 years than other landowners
- Are more likely to believe that their land will be farmed in the future and less likely to believe their land will go idle
- Are more likely to have a succession plan in place for their farm

## Wind Can Improve Crop Production!

Research from Iowa State University indicates that wind farms actually improve crop production. Corn and soybeans benefit from turbulence produced by wind turbines by decreasing temperatures during the day and increasing temperatures at night.<sup>2</sup>



# Wind Energy & Agriculture

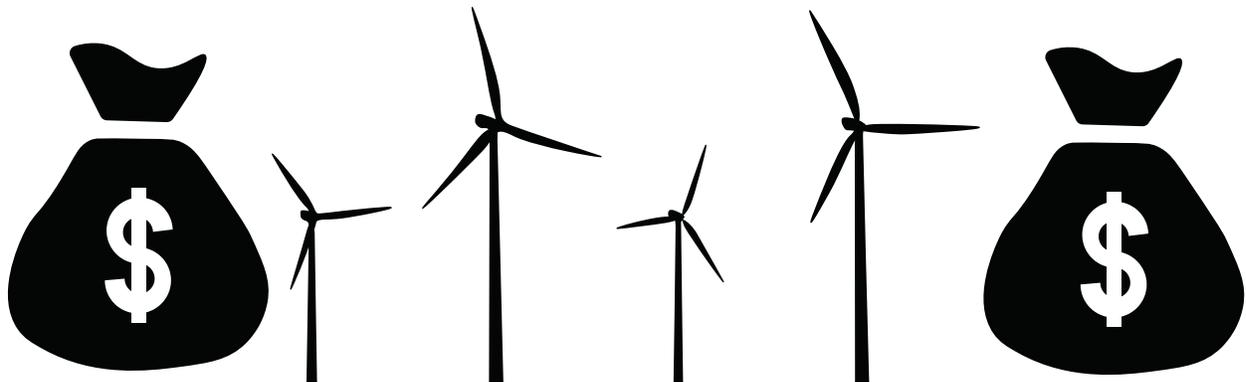
## Wind Has a Small Land Footprint!

Only 2-5% of a landowner's property is needed for turbines, roads, and electrical substations. Most land can be used for its original purposes, like ranching, farming, wildlife habitat, and recreation.<sup>3</sup> A 20% penetration of wind energy by 2030 is technically and economically feasible and can be achieved within a footprint less than the size of Anchorage, Alaska.<sup>4</sup>

## Wind Benefits Everyone!

Wind farms benefit our nation, state and local communities by improving our economy, environment and human health.

- New capital investments in rural communities generate tax revenues and landowner income
- Windfarm tax revenue supports schools, local government and an array of community services
- Farmers typically invest their money locally and the increased income and revenues help local businesses



### Sources:

1. Mills, S. 2015. <https://goo.gl/roA8fb>
2. <http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2016/12/09/windturbulence>
3. AWEA 2012 Annual Market Report, pg. 51, 61, 62 7 "20% Wind Energy by 2030: Increasing Wind Energy's Contribution to U.S. Electricity Supply" U.S. Department of Energy, July 2008, pg. 156, 10
4. The Truth About Windpower, Second Edition

March, 2024