

On-Farm Solar Opportunities

Brooke Beam, Ph.D.

Ohio State University Extension

Agriculture and Natural Resources/Community Development Educator

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Pictured: Eric Romich's presentation on PV systems at Ponderosa in Hillsboro, Ohio, on June 25, 2018.

On Monday, June 25, 2018, the first monthly Highland County Extension programming presentation was held at the Ponderosa Steakhouse in Hillsboro, Ohio. Eric Romich, an Ohio State University Assistant Professor and Extension Field Specialist in Energy Development, presented on Solar Energy in Agriculture: Considerations for Investing in Photovoltaic Solar Systems. Mr. Romich's presentation provided detailed information for farmers, homeowners, and businesses on the process of installing solar panels.

Helpful resources for individuals who were in attendance, and for those who were unable to attend,

can be found at <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/farm-solar-energy-development>. Mr. Romich has a series of recorded presentations available on the website that cover many of the topics discussed in the program in detail.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have been used in many agricultural businesses. Examples of PV systems for agricultural use include swine barns, grain dryers, and machinery buildings. According to Mr. Romich, PV systems are present on 93 percent of the farms with on-farm renewable energy production. Considerations for the placement of panels include the roof's orientation to the sun, slope,

structural integrity of the existing structure, and the expected annual snow forecast.

Upcoming Events:

Interested in learning more about insects and photography? Join OSU Extension Ed Tech Specialist and macro photographer, Danae Wolfe, at Secret Arboretum on July 7-8, 2018, for two photography sessions. The programs are from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. daily. The cost is \$65 to participate, but the registration fee includes lunch and snacks for both days. A digital camera with interchangeable lenses is required for participation in this program.

Join the Highland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Department of Agriculture, USDA NRCS, Ohio State University Extension, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife for a **Grazing Workshop**. The event will be held at the Millstone Creek Farm at 9061 Grabill Road, Hillsboro, Ohio. The event is free, but you should RSVP to the Highland SWCD at 937-393-1922. Dinner will be provided by the Highland County Cattleman Association and Union Stockyards. The program will be held from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M.

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Brooke Beam, Ph.D.

Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources/Community Development

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

OSU Extension, Highland County

119 Governor Foraker Place, Suite 202

Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

937-393-1918 Office

beam.49osu.edu

937-393-0222 Fax

highland.osu.edu



Brooke Beam, Ph.D.