

Agriculture

Agriculture is growing at a rate that is expected to feed **9.7 Billion People** by 2050 (World Bank)



\$135.5 billion

worth of agricultural products were exported from America around the world (Farm Bureau)

All the energy stored in the Earth's reserves of coal, oil and natural gas is equal to only **20 days of sunshine** (Union of Concerned Scientists)

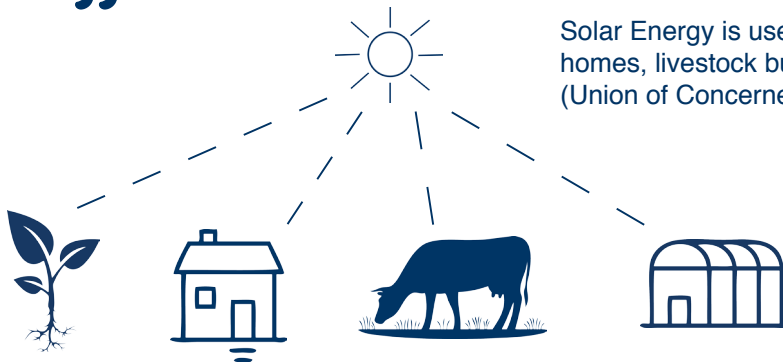
On a dairy farm where 40% of energy is used for heating, solar can reduce heating costs up to 85% annually (Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment)

The United States has

Over one million solar power installations

increasing from just 1,000 in the year 2000 and continues to grow (Inside Climate News)

“ Solar panels are the #1 way to produce on-farm renewable energy for the future (USDA) ”



Solar Energy is used to dry crops and to warm homes, livestock buildings and greenhouses (Union of Concerned Scientists)

- In 2016, solar energy only accounted for 0.9% of all agricultural energy (Agricultural Marketing Resource Center)
- Using solar powered vehicles in the future in the farming sector could save 23.3 tons of greenhouse gases each year (Green Building Council)
- The main energy costs in farming relate to drying, curing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and water heating...solar power can be used in all of these! (Xiarchos and Vick)
- Solar energy systems have low maintenance costs for farms and the fuel is virtually free once the cost of the system has been recovered (USDA)
- With accelerating research, upfront solar power cost will be competitive with traditional sources of electricity by 2020 (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)