



SOLAR FARM PROJECTS WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN!

The decision to sign an agreement to participate in a solar farm requires careful consideration. Both the benefits and the impacts of the solar farm could last for decades and the agreements are very complicated. **The Illinois Farm Bureau can provide landowners who have been approached to participate in a solar farm with detailed information that should be considered before signing any agreement. Landowners should also attend educational meetings held by your County Farm Bureau to learn about what to look for in solar farm leases and how to negotiate a better lease.**

At a minimum, landowners should:

1. Have the agreement reviewed by an attorney who is familiar with solar farm leases.
2. Talk with neighbors about working together with an attorney to spread the costs and improve your ability to negotiate the terms of the agreement.
3. Review the terms of the standard Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) that the solar farm developer will be required to sign. Consider incorporating the protections of the AIMA into the solar farm agreement for your property. The standard AIMA for a solar farm can be viewed at bit.ly/AIMAsolar.
4. Contact your county government to get a copy of the solar farm ordinance for your county and understand the protections the ordinance may provide.
5. Carefully consider all your property rights impacted by the proposed solar farm agreement. Be sure the agreement maintains your right to use and farm your property that is not involved in the solar farm and that you are compensated for all rights that you transfer to the solar farm developer.

These items are only the beginning. Landowners should carefully consider each provision included in a solar farm agreement before signing one. Doing so will allow you to make well-educated decisions on whether the solar farm is right for your property and will allow you to negotiate agreements that meet your needs.

Please contact your County Farm Bureau for detailed information on issues to consider before signing an agreement to participate in a solar farm or to attend a landowner educational meeting.

