

Financial Benefits of Wind Farms to the Local Farmer

Farmers love wind farms due to the steady, predictable, and reliable income they provide - income that is not weather dependent. With a median household income in North Carolina of \$46,693, a farmer with only two turbines would increase their income by over 20% annually.

“Wind Energy on our farmland has provided the financial certainty and diversity that we needed.”

-Horace Prichard; Reaping the Wind: A Wind-Farmer's Tale

<http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article69563107.html>

Physical requirements for turbines do not impose serious restrictions on farmers.

Minimal Disruption

Farmers are able to continue farming the majority of their land during construction, and everything up to the turbine base immediately after the turbines and related infrastructure are installed.

Limited Land Use

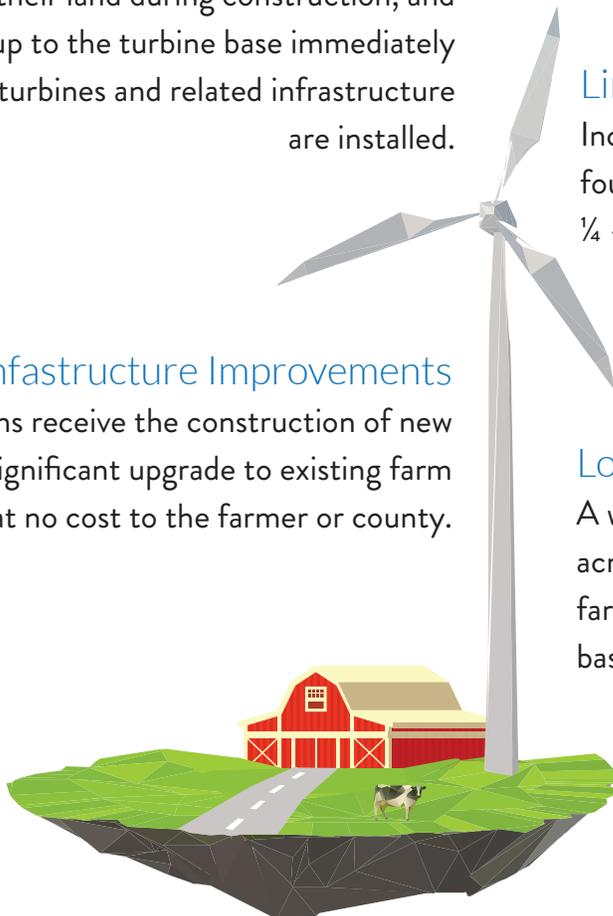
Including the access road to the turbine and the foundation itself, a wind turbine removes only about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ acre from agricultural production.

Infrastructure Improvements

Wind farms receive the construction of new roads or significant upgrade to existing farm roads at no cost to the farmer or county.

Low Impact

A wind turbine's foundation measures only 18 feet across with a 10 foot gravel apron, allowing the farmer to continue to cultivate crops right up to the base of the turbine platform.



Avian Analysis and Impacts

Wind energy represents a limited threat to birds compared to annual deaths from cats (1.4 - 3.7 billion) and collisions with cell and radio towers (6.8 million).

Less than 0.01% of all small birds collide annually with wind turbines (134,000-230,000).

Despite these low numbers, the wind energy industry continues to take steps to further reduce collisions.

Developers do pre-permit avian studies to ensure minimal impact to large birds and hawks."

-A Comprehensive Analysis of Small-Passerine Facilities with Collision with Turbines at Wind Energy Facilities

What's Really Harming Our Birds?



Amazon Wind Farm US East Brings Opportunity to NC Farmers

\$624,000

The total annual payments to landowners

60

Miles of road enhanced with over 18 inches of aggregate, allowing farmers to harvest and transport crops in all weather conditions.

99.1%

Percentage of 22,000 acre project available for other uses, including agriculture.

"Wind power isn't dependent on the weather or commodity prices. The income from wind power is consistent and dependable and allows us to continue our family tradition of farming in North Carolina."

-Steve Harris; Steve Harris: Adaptable Farmers Find Another Crop

http://pilotonline.com/opinion/columnist/guest/steve-harris-adaptable-farmers-find-another-crop/article_9e915808-86e2-5793-9943-9034620bb0d5.html