



Continental, Ohio

## Multi-Generational Ohio Farmer, Landowner **Joe Recker Jr.**

I am either a sixth or seventh-generation farmer in Putnam County, depending on how you want to count it. For us, farming is a long-term affair. I lived here, working with my dad and grandfather on the farm until I left for college. After that, I worked in the banking sector for almost ten years. Eventually, I made the choice to come back and rejoin my dad to help manage the farm and a real estate business we started. It's been very interesting getting to experience it both ways—growing up picking up sticks in the field and now coming back with a slightly different lens.

To make a farm last six or seven generations, conservation must be your focus. For us, leasing land to the solar park was another opportunity to branch out and produce something necessary—energy—in a sustainable fashion. From a business point of view, it makes a lot of sense to work with a large, investment-grade, publicly traded company like EDP Renewables (EDPR). The economics work very well compared to more traditional farming, and it's diversifying our revenue. Joining the solar park was also in the spirit of doing something innovative, trying to be on the right side of the equation by producing clean power from the sun.

We have a lot of companies reaching out to us about potential solar development on a lot of different parcels. It's a common trend I hear from farmers now. Who you choose to work with is very important, and EDPR has been top-notch. My favorite part about working with EDPR has been the positive impact that I've seen made on the local community. There's been additional opportunities for local businesses and jobs. It's been great to see such a win-win partnership. Working with EDPR was also a pleasure for us personally. We got the chance to learn something new, and it brought Dad and myself closer in the process. I think that's more than you can ask for.



“In terms of what you can do with your land, I think clean power is a very attractive option.

**It's really neat to put something like food on the table for the American people, as well as power in the homes of people in these local communities.”**

These quotes are from an interview with Joe Recker Jr. on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They have been edited for clarity.

“There is room for all of us at the table. Traditional energy sources and renewables can complement and balance each other out.

*I think that the best world includes us working together.”*



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