



Orangeburg, South Carolina

Landowner **Walt Pooser**

I was raised in Cameron and have been here all my life. I'm a fifth generation farmer on the same land. We've farmed soy beans, corn, a lot of melon crops, and peanuts, but now it's mainly cotton. My immediate family owns about 200 acres of the solar farm.

I decided to put a solar farm on my property for the steady income. In agriculture, there's always risk. Anytime you plant a seed, something's coming to get it – weather, pests, something. With solar farming, there's no risk. The return on solar is more money than I can make growing crops, even during the best years.

The solar farm was a fit for my family because of the longevity. We have 20 years with an option for more negotiations, but I hope it stays forever. It means a lot less worrying about the future. It'll allow me to take care of my parents and my son.

After the solar farm checks started coming in, I purchased more land and started a tree nursery. When you show the lenders this fixed income you have coming in, your credit rating goes up, as well as your borrowing power so you can expand your business and farm. And we've had a little fun – we've taken a couple of cruises and things like that. The income from the solar farm allows me the flexibility for the future so I can plan what I want to do.

“My land is very important to me. EDPR hasn't done anything that can't be removed off the land. They've planted grass on it to keep it from eroding. **They really respect the land and the landowners.**”



A solar farm provides you peace of mind with a stable income.

It really helps you be able to expand your business and do more.”

These quotes are from an interview with Walt Pooser on November 28, 2018. They have been edited for clarity.

