

Midwest Focus

Ohio farm cutting expenses with solar power, page 19

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Inside

Empire Racing, p. 3

Patrick Biancone, p. 3

Oak Tree Derby preview, p. 7

Perryville Stakes preview, p. 7

Durham Cup Stakes preview, p. 8

John Henry memorial, p. 8

Road to the Breeders' Cup, p. 9-11

The Tin Man, p. 12

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Raymond Buse Jr. had been exploring different energy sources other than standard electrical service for his Meadow Springs Farm in Clermont, Ohio, for nearly four years.

After researching different options, Buse settled on Dovetail Solar and Wind for a solar energy system at his 80-acre farm, which serves primarily as a Thoroughbred breeding operation.

Soon after Buse made a decision, an 11.6 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array was installed on a new barn, which houses approximately 30 broodmares, yearlings, and foals. The large solar electric energy system was completed in March.

Solar panels and other equipment cost approximately \$100,000 to install, but Buse's cost was offset by a state grant of \$40,000 and a federal tax write-off of \$20,000.

"It has already reduced our energy costs, and my estimate is that we

are saving about \$350 to \$400 per month," Buse told the Cincinnati *Enquirer*. "I'll have a better handle on the figures next year, but I'm estimating it will save about 5% of our energy costs for a year."

The solar power system's net metering connection automatically sends excess power generated on sunny days back to an electric utility power grid. The nonpolluting, renewable energy system will keep approximately 22,000 pounds of global warming carbon monoxide from being produced annually by a traditional coal-fired electric power plant.

"We are seeing many of Ohio's progressive farms and stables, such as Meadow Springs, moving to both reduce their electrical costs as well as make their operation more environmentally sustainable," said Alan Frasz, vice president of Dovetail Solar and Wind. "It is exciting to see solar energy gaining momentum across this industry."