



Learn from experts and connect with experienced landowners throughout your renewable energy journey.

REFA provides comprehensive education and networking opportunities to help farmer and rancher members make informed decisions about renewable energy development. Whether you're just starting to consider hosting a project or have been hosting wind turbines for years, our programs connect you with the knowledge and people you need.

Who this helps:

Prospective Hosts who want to:

- Understand the basics of wind and solar leasing
- Learn what to expect during development and construction
- Connect with farmers who have been through the process

Current Hosts who need to:

- Navigate ongoing operational issues
- Prepare for contract renegotiations or repowering decisions
- Share their experiences with other landowners

Experienced Members who can:

- Mentor newer members through the development process
- Learn about emerging technologies and market trends
- Stay informed about policy changes affecting their projects

Education Resources

Aggie: Your AI Knowledge Assistant

Free for REFA members

Get instant answers to your renewable energy and agriculture questions through Aggie, REFA's comprehensive knowledge base. Our staff can quickly research any question using Aggie's extensive database covering:

- **Siting:** Project planning, land use requirements, setbacks, and site assessment
- **Agriculture Industry:** Farming and ranching compatibility with energy projects
- **Development Data:** Market trends, technology specifications, and project timelines
- **Federal Programs:** Tax incentives, conservation programs, and regulatory requirements
- **Landowner Stories:** Real experiences from farmers and ranchers hosting projects
- **Energy Cost Comparisons:** Understanding energy markets and pricing
- **Solar and Wind Myths:** Fact-checking common misconceptions
- **Storage and Transmission:** Battery systems and grid connection basics
- **Opposition:** Addressing community concerns and building support

How it works: Submit your question to REFA staff through any contact method, and we'll get you a comprehensive answer using Aggie.

Questions to Ask Through Aggie:

- "What should I know before talking to a developer?"
- "How do wind turbines affect cattle grazing?"
- "What legal issues should I watch for in solar leases?"
- "How do I prepare for construction on my farm?"

Virtual Learning Options

Free for REFA members

Join regular webinars covering key topics throughout the renewable energy development lifecycle such as:

- Wind and Solar Leasing 101
- Negotiating Fair Lease Terms
- What to Expect During Construction
- Managing Agricultural Operations During Development
- Dealing with site access issues
- Repowering vs. Decommissioning Decisions
- Technology Upgrades and Improvements

REFA members will also have access to a **Digital Resource Library** with recorded webinars, member-contributed case studies, and technical guides and reference materials.

In Person Learning Opportunities

REFA Annual Meeting Coming in 2026!

Regional Meetings

- Smaller gatherings focused on local issues and opportunities
- Face-to-face networking with nearby members
- Region-specific policy and development updates

Agriculture Trade Show Meetups

Join REFA staff and members at major agriculture events including:

- Commodity Classic
- Farm Progress Show
- World Dairy Expo
- Regional farm and ranch shows

Peer-to-Peer Networking

REFA Member Online Community

Free for REFA members

Connect directly with other farmer and rancher members through our private online platform:

Find the Right Members

- Search by location to connect with nearby landowners
- Filter by project type (wind, solar, storage, transmission)
- Find members with similar farming operations (row crops, livestock, dairy, etc.)

Discussion Forums

- General renewable energy topics
- Technology-specific discussions (wind vs. solar)
- Regional conversations about local issues
- Policy and regulatory updates

Special Interest Groups

- First-time hosts seeking guidance
- Experienced operators sharing lessons learned
- Specific technology focus groups
- State or regional member groups

Direct Messaging

- Private conversations with individual members
- Ask specific questions about their experiences
- Get referrals for lawyers, consultants, or contractors

Member-to-Member Learning

Free for REFA members

Experienced Host Network Connect with members who have successfully completed renewable energy projects and are willing to share their experiences:

- Site visits to see projects in operation
- Phone consultations about specific challenges
- Introductions to trusted professionals (lawyers, consultants, contractors)
- Honest assessments of what worked and what didn't

Mentorship Opportunities

- Pair new members with experienced hosts in similar situations
- Ongoing support throughout the development process
- Regional mentor networks for local knowledge sharing

Success Stories and Lessons Learned

- Real experiences from members at all stages
- Common challenges and how others overcame them
- Financial outcomes and impact on farm operations
- Family and community relationship management

Getting Started

All education and networking services are included with your REFA membership (except annual meeting registration fees).

New Members:

1. Join the REFA Member Online Community
2. Introduce yourself and your operation
3. Search for members with similar projects or locations
4. Attend upcoming webinars and events

Ready to Start Learning?

Contact REFA to access education and networking resources

- **Phone:** 630-299-8615
- **Email:** jannas@renewableenergyfarmers.org
- **Online Community:** Submit a service request