

Sheep Study

Regarding Noise, sheep are not loud compared to dogs or roadway noise—they are generally very quiet animals, especially when calm and grazing.

Source	Typical Sound Level	Notes
Sheep bleating	~70 dB (close range, occasional)	Only when startled, separated, or at feeding time. Very quiet most of the day.
Dog barking	90–100 dB	Much louder, can be sustained and high-pitched.
Roadway noise	60–85 dB (at 50–100 ft)	Continuous background sound, especially from highways or busy streets.

Important context for this solar project:

- spread across 26 acres, there will be minimal vocalization, and it won't travel far.
- The 160 feet of distance, 100 feet of open field, and 50 feet of trees create an effective natural sound barrier. According to the sound/distance table in the sound study, the sheep bleating will be below threshold noise levels at the border.
- In contrast, common neighborhood noises like dogs barking or passing cars are within 20 to 50 feet of homes and are very noticeable.

Regarding odor, sheep manure doesn't smell bad—especially not in a pasture setting with proper space and ventilation. In fact, most nearby residents won't notice any smell at all. Sheep manure is very similar to deer manure—both in appearance and in odor (or lack thereof).

Here's why sheep manure doesn't smell bad:

- Dry and pellet-like: Sheep droppings are small, firm pellets, which dry quickly and don't produce the same strong ammonia smell as wetter manure.
- Low nitrogen and moisture: This means less decomposition odor and fewer flies.
- Pasture-distributed: In a grazing setup (like a 26-acre field), manure spreads out naturally, allowing the grass and soil to absorb and break it down efficiently, without creating concentrated odor zones.

Regarding animal care, farmers care for animal health and wellbeing on a continual basis, providing food, water and shelter. This is their profession and so comes natural to them. As an investment, they also cannot afford not to care for the animals or would not be in business long as with any other profession.

Conclusion:

To nearby residents, the occasional soft bleat of a sheep will not be noticeable—and far less disruptive—than typical neighborhood sounds. Odor will not be an issue. The farmer will properly care for the sheep.

Prepared by:

Timothy R Meyer Engineer EIT
Equity Advisors Inc.