

For half a century, Tim Hemphill grew corn and soybeans on his 720-acre farm in northern Iowa. Then five years ago, as he readied his son to take over the business so he could retire, catastrophe struck: Local corn prices plummeted. “It was about the worst thing that ever happened to farmers,” he says. And it’s happening all over the country: Slumps in commodity prices, paired with **rising** costs of pesticides and seeds, have driven many small farms out of business, and **according** to the Department of Agriculture, farmers’ earnings are projected to drop nearly 9 percent in 2017.

Luckily, the Hemphills had another source of income. Around the same time Hemphill retired, he connected with a company called Lost Lakes Wind Farm. He jumped at the chance to lease three acres of his property to Lost Lakes, and now two turbines yield Hemphill about \$20,000 a year to supplement his Social Security checks. Hemphill’s son still farms around the structures, and the family barely notices them—except for an occasional whirring sound.

Wind farms have **caught on** throughout Iowa, not only bringing a much-needed boost to farmers, but also generating county tax revenue to fund school and road improvements and adding new jobs. Iowa now gets 36 percent of its electricity from wind, a higher percentage than any other state, even California...

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