



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, June 9, 2023
10 am to noon
Virtual Only

WebEx Information:

<https://mwcog.webex.com/mwcog/j.php?MTID=mbabac244b58c2c2ed1ddb2c42faf5008>

Meeting number (access code): 2434 132 9680

Meeting password: COGFARM0609

AGENDA

10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councilmember Jon Stehle, FARM Chair

Chair Stehle will call the meeting to order and ask participants to introduce themselves in the chat. Approval of the April meeting summary will be held during the August FARM meeting.

10:10 A.M. 2. MEMBER REFLECTIONS ON LOUDOUN FARM TOUR

Councilmember Jon Stehle, FARM Chair and members of the FARM Tour

Members on the FARM tour visited multiple farms in Western Loudoun County and had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the obstacles and struggles that our local farmers encounter. Members of the tour will be asked to share one takeaway or one thing that they learned with the committee.

Recommended Action: Discussion.

10:20 A.M. 3. MAJOR ISSUES SHAPING THE FARM BILL

Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director, Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems, Arizona State University, and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Dr. Merrigan will provide an overview of her recent article: [“These four challenges will shape the next farm bill – and how the US eats.”](#) She will also provide observations on other issues that elected leaders (local, state, federal) and advocates from Metropolitan Washington and the Chesapeake Bay states may want to consider focusing their attention.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discussion.

10:50 P.M. 4. UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

Rebecca Eichmann, Legislative Director, Rep. Abigail Spanberger (VA-07)

Ms. Eichmann will provide a brief update from Virginia Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger’s office on the Farm Bill, including outreach, priorities, and how reauthorization is proceeding. Representative Spanberger serves on the House Agriculture Committee and is the only member of the region’s Congressional delegation on a House or Senate agricultural committee. There will be time for questions and answers.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discussion.

11:10 A.M. 5. INTERACTIVE ROUND TABLE ON THE FARM BILL

*Colby Ferguson, Government Relations Director, Maryland Farm Bureau
Hannah Quigley, Policy Specialist, National Sustainable Agriculture Commission
Michael J. Wilson, Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions
Vanessa Garcia Polanco, National Young Farmers Coalition*

Each panelist will provide remarks highlighting major issues and priorities that they are tracking and perspectives on what to expect with reauthorization. There will be time for questions and answers followed by a discussion about potential actions or outreach on behalf of the FARM committee.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discussion.

11:50 A.M. 6. FARM COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Jon Stehle, FARM Chair

- A short virtual business meeting in August or early September to discuss FY24 and FY25 Budget, Work Program/Strategic Plan Actions (with consultant feedback)
- Update from the Catalytic Opportunities Work Group (Victoria Treski)

11:50 A.M. **7. ADJOURN**
Jon Stehle, FARM Chair

The next FARM meeting is scheduled for August 11 from 10:00 a.m. – noon.