

AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Highlights from a New COG Program and the Region

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Food and Agriculture in the Region

- Agricultural land foundational to food economy
- Very dynamic sectors, attracting increasing investment
- Improved regional information, coordination could yield positive results



District of Columbia
Completing Food
Economy Study

2015 data from
*Economic Impact of
Select Resource
Based Industries in
Maryland*

*The Economic Impact
of Virginia's
Agriculture
and Forest Industries*



COG Jurisdiction	Ag & Forestry: Economic Impact
Arlington County	\$73.1 million
Charles County	\$88.5 million
District of Columbia	TBD
Fairfax County	\$945.3 million
Frederick County	\$1.54 billion
Loudoun County	\$860.1 million
Montgomery County	\$637.9 million
Prince George's County	\$634.5 million
Prince William County	\$355.2 million

COG's Regional Food Systems Program

Current Priorities

- Foster Local Food and Agriculture Business Connections
- Expand Market Opportunities
- Increase Access to Local Food
- Support Food and Agriculture Policy and Infrastructure



Photo: Season Extension at Even' Star Organic



Foster Local Food Business Connections

VA Dept of Ag • MD Dept of Ag • MD Farm Bureau • VA Farm Bureau • Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture • VA Association of Biological Farming • PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture • WV Food & Farm Coalition • MWCOG • Montgomery County Office of Agriculture • Loudoun County Economic Development • Loudoun County Public Schools • Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District • Southern MD Ag Dev Commission • USDA • MD Food Center Authority • MD SHA • VA DOT • DDOT • Baltimore Metropolitan Council • Baltimore Food Policy Initiative • Keany Produce • Coastal Sunbelt Produce • Local Food Hub • 4P Foods • From the Farmer • Tuscarora Organic Growers • Chesapeake Harvest • Mock's Greenhouse • ECO City Farms • DC Central Kitchen • Capital Area Food Bank • Arlington Food Assistance Center • Food for Others • Arcadia • United Fresh Produce Association • LuLu's Local Food Hub • Northern Neck Fresh, LLC • Virginia Community Food Connections • Community Foodworks • DC Greens • Montgomery County Food Council • Prince George's Food Equity Council • MD Farmers Market Assoc • Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission • Chesapeake Foodshed Network • Second Spring Farm • Chesapeake Farm to Table • Glen's Garden Market • The Common Market • T&E Meats • Virginia State Dairywomen's Association • Chesapeake Farm to Table • Potomac Sprout Company • Dorchesters Farm FoodHUB • Shenandoah Growers • UMD Extension (PGC) • MD Organic Food and Farming Assoc

Expand Market Opportunities

Example: COG Employee Community Supported Agriculture Incentive: “The Farm Card”



Support Food and Ag Policy Infrastructure

- Regional Data and Information, e.g. *What Our Region Grows*
- Working and Ad-Hoc Groups
- Emerging Issues, Best Practices, and Technical Assistance

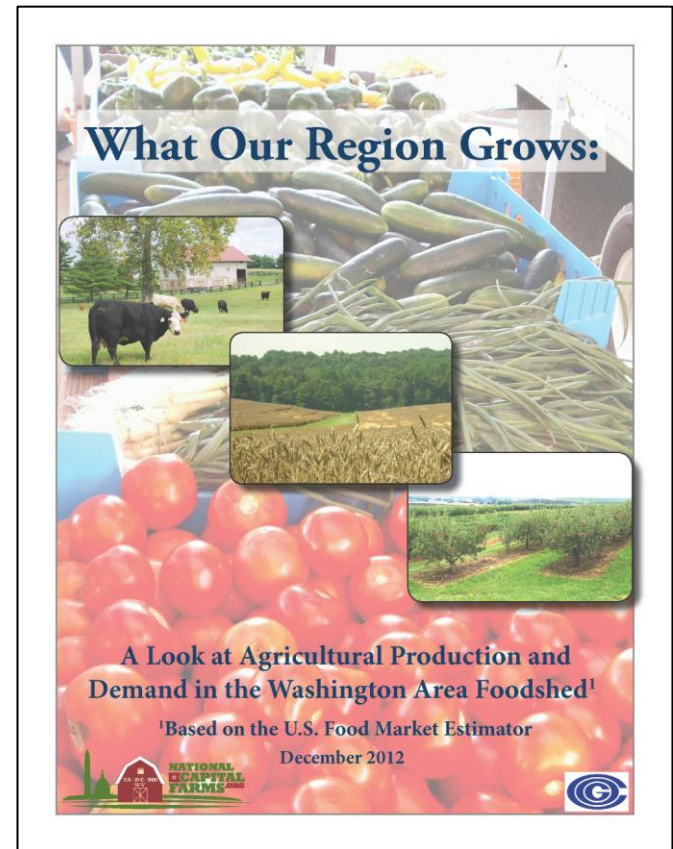


Second annual meeting of Food Policy Councils from the COG region at the University of Maryland Terp Farm in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Photo credit: Allison Lilly Tjaden, UMD

What Our Region Grows

- Used 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture (COA) and county data to provide an overview of agricultural production in the Washington Agricultural Region
- Written with COG's Regional Agricultural Work Group, local farm production, conservation, and marketing experts

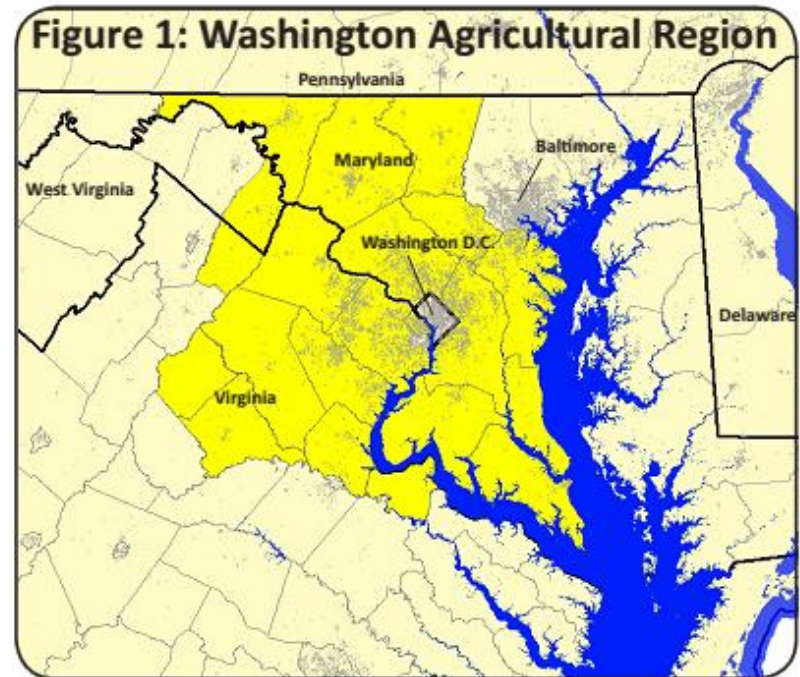


COG's 2012 Report on Agricultural Production in the Region.

What Our Region Grows

2012 Report Excerpt

“agriculture constitutes approximately 28 percent of the region’s land area...however, with few exceptions, regional agriculture is not meeting local food demands... **The region does have successful medium-scale production for a variety of products grown for human consumption (apples, pumpkins, beans, sweet corn), but none are produced at levels that entirely meet demand.** Dairy almost meets local market demand.”



*Washington Agricultural Region from
What Our Region Grows*

What Our Region Grows: 2018 Update

- Uses 2012 COA data, more recent state, county, and local data to show changes in land use, farms, farmers, and production
- Written with COG's Regional Agricultural Work Group.
- Includes emerging sectors, more details on food and ag activity in COG jurisdictions
- Will offer regional strategies to strengthen the sector



Agricultural production in the region

What Our Region Grows: 2018 Update

- Notable growth in on-farm craft beverage enterprises, vineyards, agritourism sales, urban farms
- Grain continues to dominate production
- Overall, declining agricultural production levels and dairy is in crisis
- New programs to train beginning farmers and contact them to land but additional work needed

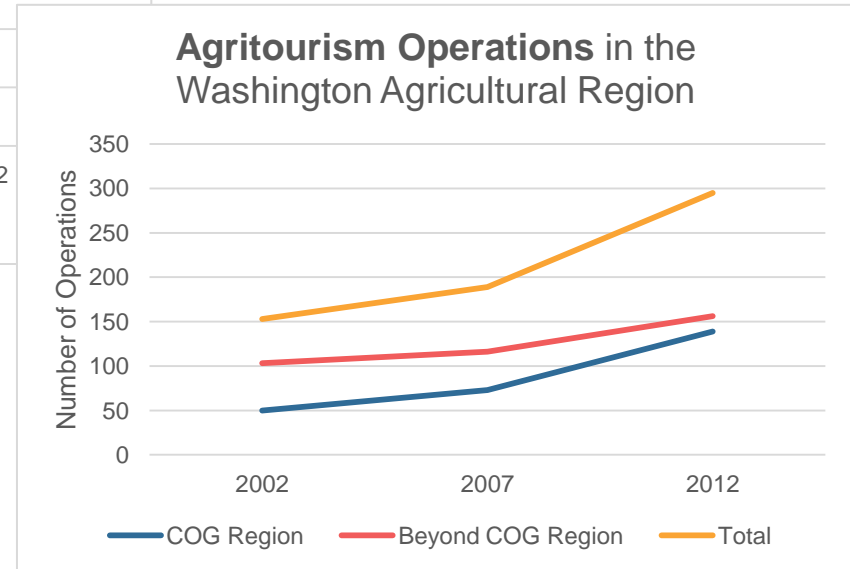
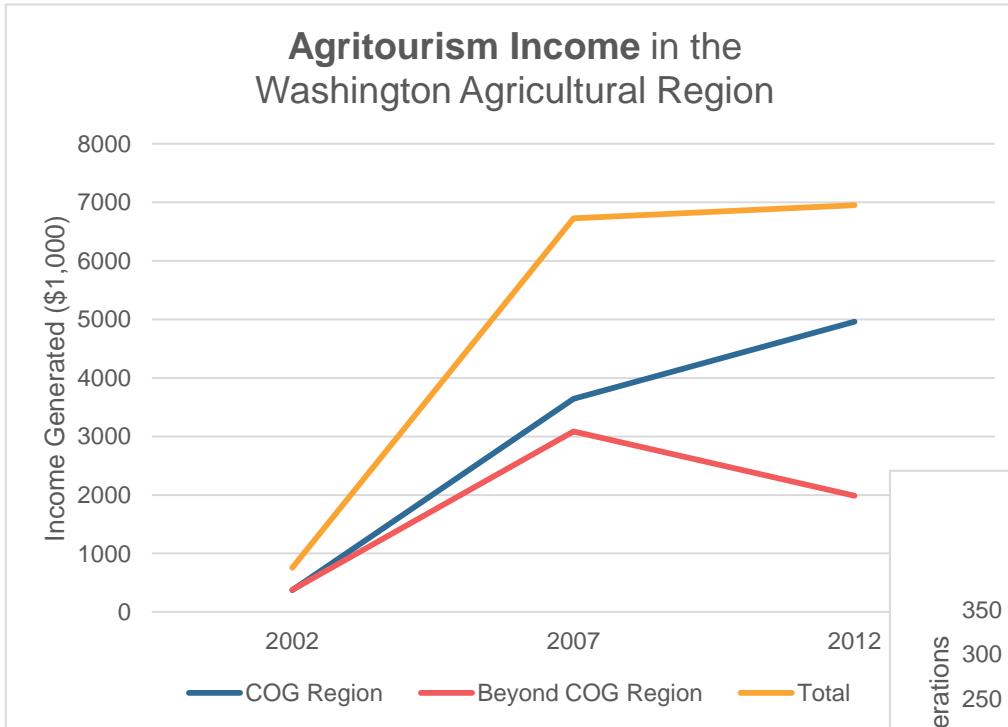


Liked by [cultivatethecity](#), [grr429](#) and 96 others

[loveandcarrots](#) Have a RADish Friday! This week brought an explosion of growth at the [@tenatclarendon](#) rooftop farm. We take pride in sustainably producing organic vegetables for the residents. This is the #futureoffood! ❤️🌍

From the Love & Carrots Instagram feed: The garden at Ten at Clarendon built and maintained by Love & Carrots.

What Our Region Grows: 2018 Update



Agritourism of growing importance to farms in the COG Region

Next Steps

- Complete and release *What Our Region Grows* – Fall 2018
- Continued implementation of Regional Food Systems Program Initiatives
- Strategic Planning conversations with COG Members
 - Program Development
 - Sustainability



Swiss chard transplants from The Farm at Sunnyside's Instagram feed

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