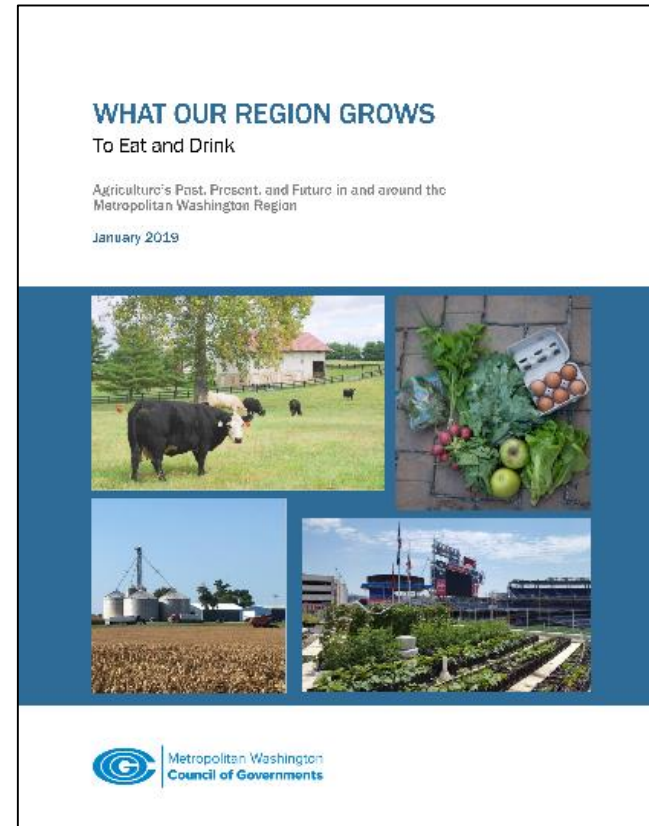


# Food and Agriculture in the Region

- COG has been working on agriculture since 2006
- Broadened to Regional Food Systems Program in 2016
- Vision: Stand up Regional Food and Agriculture Economy Commission to provide an on-going forum for coordination on food security, resiliency, and other key issues



Above: COG's Regional Ag Work Group worked with staff to release [What Our Region Grows](#) in 2012 and 2019 (pictured)

# Regional Food Systems Program in COVID-19

- Weekly regional calls with local leaders to share food security and food assistance issues, needs
- Monitoring food supply chain with partners
- Sharing resources and contacts with member jurisdictions
- Developing [communications on food](#)



# How Can Local Leaders Help?

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- Use an equity lens
- Support food banks, food pantries, and other food providers with financial contributions, volunteer services.
  - Remember providers serving especially vulnerable populations (i.e. Latinx immigrants)
  - Make other connections to the regional food economy when possible (i.e. farmers, food hubs, restaurants)
- Support advocates for stronger safety net programs (i.e. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP) and local food policy changes
  - Examples: DC, MD, and VA Hunger Solutions, local food policy councils
- Invest in coordination of food assistance, technical assistance and other services to farmers, food entrepreneurs, etc.

## More Information

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