



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE UPDATES Prepared for FARM Policy Committee and Stakeholders May 2022

***Updated 6/2**

Next FARM Policy Committee Meeting

Registration information will be provided on Tues, May 31st for the June 10th FARM Committee Meeting. This hybrid meeting will include an in-person option with lunch. **In-person RSVPs will be requested by Monday, June 6th to secure catering.**

At this 11 am meeting:

- Invited speakers will provide state legislative and budget updates from Maryland and Virginia.
- The first edition of the *Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington* will be released.
- Congressman Jim McGovern's office will provide a short briefing on the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.
- FARM Policy Committee Work Groups will discuss their first meetings and next steps.
- FARM members will be asked to review and approve updates to the Bylaws and the FY23 Work Program.
- There will be ample time for FARM member updates.

Food Security News and Notes

Federal Public Health Emergency and SNAP Emergency Allotments

- Recently the 60-day deadline to notify states of the end to the federal public health emergency (PHE) passed.
- The federal PHE is expected to be extended into October.
- This has important implications for SNAP Emergency Allotments, Medicaid, and more.
- The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia have the possibility to continue to request and issue SNAP Emergency Allotments into the fall.
- <https://www.marketplace.org/2022/05/17/the-biden-administration-is-extending-the-public-health-emergency-heres-what-that-means/>

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities has released a new report on the critical importance of P-EBT in combatting summer childhood food insecurity, including how states can submit Summer P-EBT plans.

- Food insecurity is higher in the summer and summer meal distribution will be changing.
- The document includes a state-by-state table of estimated numbers of children impacted last summer, and total estimated funds disbursed.

- <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/states-have-an-important-opportunity-to-address-childhood-hunger-this>

ALIVE! Opens New Food Hub, Service Center. The new, colorful venue provides more than food to those in need.

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/news/alive-opens-new-food-hub-service-center/>

When her son died, a woman turned to gardening. Now, she feeds her entire community

<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/22/1097130625/when-her-son-died-a-woman-turned-to-gardening-now-she-feeds-her-entire-community>

Research and News Overview: Food Price Inflation, from the New York City Food Policy Center at Hunter College post

<https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/research-and-news-overview-food-price-inflation/>

White House Announces Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health in September.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/04/white-house-announces-conference-on-hunger-nutrition-and-health-in-september/>

Agriculture News and Notes

Plan for Ag Innovation Center in Frederick County Advancing

- County Executive Gardner announced the multi-phase feasibility study for a shared use center for farmers.
- <https://www.wfmd.com/2022/05/20/plan-for-ag-innovation-center-in-frederick-county-advancing/>

Photo Gallery: A Weekend for Springtime and Farms in Western Loudoun

- Recap of the recent Loudoun County Spring Farm Tour
- <https://loudounnow.com/2022/05/23/photo-gallery-a-weekend-for-springtime-and-farms-in-western-loudoun/>

'The most amazing link to our history': the farmers reclaiming their heritage one seed at a time

- Recent article on the Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance and Ujamaa Seeds.
- Features Prince George's County growers
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/23/seeds-heritage-ujamaa-cooperative-farming-alliance>

Rooftop food production deals with water runoff management

- Profile from Iowa Farmer Today of Up Top Acres in the District
- https://www.agupdate.com/iowafarmertoday/business/rooftop-food-production-deals-with-water-runoff-management/article_3d17a4ee-d09a-11ec-9eb5-d30d3b6f231d.html

Maryland Permanently Preserves 22 Working Farms

<https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2022/05/11/maryland-permanently-preserves-22-working-farms/>

Recent Food Security Publications

Urban Institute Completes Arlington Food Security and Access Study.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/News/Articles/2022/Urban-Institute-Completes-Arlington-Food-Security-and-Access-Study>

Maryland Food Bank Research Report: Child Food Insufficiency

<https://mdfoodbank.org/news/mfb-research-report-child-food-insufficiency/>

Other Upcoming Events

Wed, June 1 at 11:30 am: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Food System Transformation Framework at usda.gov/live

“...Join Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack for a livestream event to announce USDA’s framework for shoring up the food supply chain and transforming the food system to be fairer, more competitive, and more resilient. USDA efforts to create more and better markets will benefit both producers and consumers, as well as address longstanding issues intensified by the pandemic.”

Wed, June 1 at 3:30 pm: Next White House biweekly stakeholder call on the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Calls are off-the-record and closed to press. More information on dates and registration: https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_A-oIAYcqSQ6SedDbLGVM0Q

Wed, June 1 at 5 pm: Next virtual meeting of the DC Food Policy Council. On the agenda for this meeting is a presentation on the Healthy Hospitals Act, Food Policy Council Budget news, and much more. More information: <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>

Thurs, June 2 from 10 am to noon: Next [Maryland Food System Resiliency Council](#) meeting. **Public registration information:** <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tU0kce6urDkiHtXdg6gymWgG0uZDTjNRbaAo>

- Contact [Brittany Cook](#), Food Resilience Specialist at the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to be added to the FSRC’s email list.

Sat, June 4 from 11 am to 5 pm in Washington, DC: Opening of The Well at Oxon Run, an urban farm and community wellness space in Ward 8. <https://www.dcgreens.org/thewell>

Full. Tues, June 7 at 10 am: Regional Listening Session for the Northeast, MidAtlantic, Puerto Rico, & Virgin Islands for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. More information: <https://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/white-house-conference-hunger-nutrition-and-health/share-your-ideas>

As of June 1, there is still capacity in the Spanish-only listening session on June 13: Spanish-only (all regions): June 13, 2022, 1pm-3pm EDT. [Register here](#)

Tues, June 21 from 4 to 6 pm in Rockville: Save the Date for Montgomery County Food Council’s 10th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-county-food-council-10th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-349782868977?mc_cid=f449ec7df0&mc_eid=UNIQID

- The [Montgomery County Food Council](#) (MCFC) is the region's oldest local food council.

Sat. June 25 at from 10 am to 4 pm: Rooting DC returns for a series of six virtual workshops. <https://www.facebook.com/rootingdc/>

Mon, June 27 at 7 pm: The Prince George's County Food Equity Council hosts a virtual forum with County Council candidates to discuss the importance of building a more secure and resilient food system. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-candidate-conversation-building-a-more-secure-resilient-food-system-tickets-344255536577>

Jobs

- Capital Area Food Bank is hiring a [Partnership Coordinator for Virginia](#) and a [Senior Director for the Virginia Region](#). Positions are based at CAFB's Lorton, VA location.
- The Maryland Agricultural & Resource Based-Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) is hiring an Agricultural Loan/Grant Programs Associate/Trainee. Link: http://www.marbidco.org/pages/news_and_events/news_and_events.htm
- Charlottesville-based Local Food Hub is looking for a new Executive Director. Applications are open through June 16, 2022. The new Executive Director is expected to be welcomed to the team this fall. Link: www.localfoodhub.org/jobs/

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is June 4-12. Theme: Restoration Brings Results
Events calendar <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/attend>

Saturday, June 4: How are you connected to the Chesapeake Bay?

Sunday, June 5: Tree canopy & forest buffers

Monday, June 6: Green infrastructure

Tuesday, June 7: Stream restoration

Wednesday, June 8: Wetlands

Thursday, June 9: Agricultural projects

Friday, June 10: Oyster and mussel restoration

Saturday, June 11: Public access

Sunday, June 12: Looking to the future

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

Regional Water Supply and Drought Outlook

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on April 28 indicates that some areas are abnormally dry mainly due to low streamflow and precipitation levels over the past few months. The areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality are under a normal status. Groundwater levels are normal to low, and local reservoirs remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months. For additional information please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/drought>