

A New Approach to Preserving Land for Agriculture in the Washington Metro Region

- Why there is a need to preserve farmland?
 - ◆ Food & national security, next generation of farmers, reversing climate change
- Things to take in to consideration before preserving a farm
 - ◆ Financial stability, ability of next generation to keep farming
- Importance of a regional approach
 - ◆ Areas around DC are highly developed → loss and fragmentation of farmland
- What we can do to make preservation more appealing to landowners
 - ◆ Exempt property taxes for farmland in conservation
 - ◆ When a preserved farm is sold, provide grants to the seller (farm owner with land in conservation) and the buyer (beginning farmer) that cover closing costs of the sale
 - ◆ Provide financial counseling for the seller and the buyer