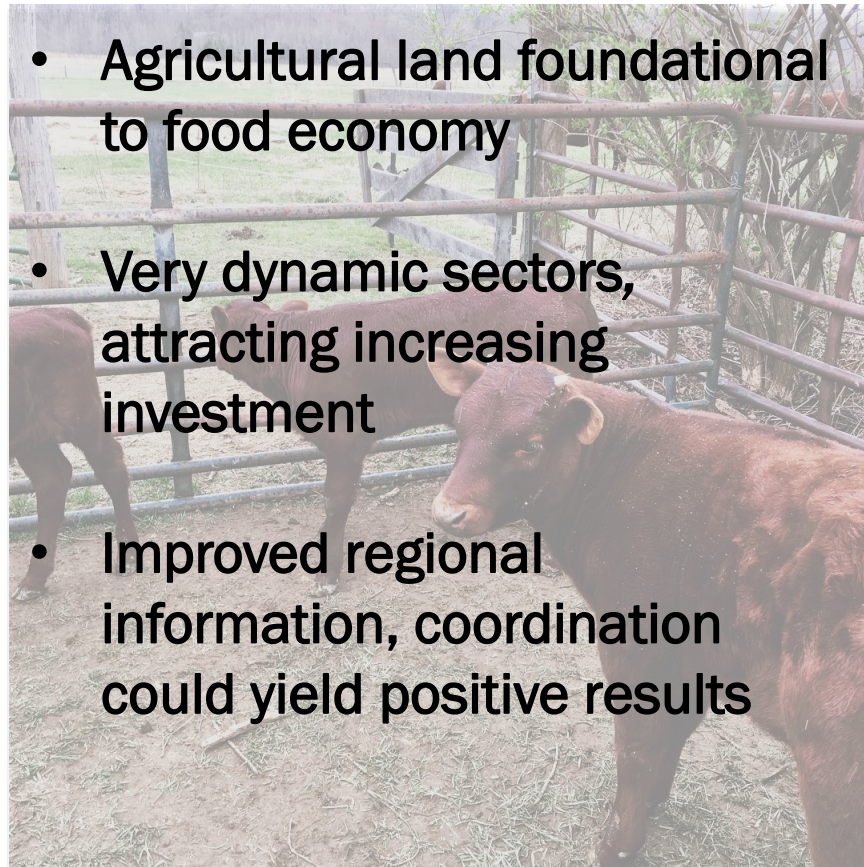


REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Select Highlights from a Rapidly Changing National Capital Region and COG

Lindsay Smith
Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
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Food and Agriculture in the National Capital 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 for 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

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large greenhouse. The structure is made of a metal frame covered with clear plastic. Inside, several people are working. In the foreground, there are rows of lush green leafy plants, likely lettuce or similar vegetables. Two workers in the middle ground are pulling up a white protective covering over a row of plants. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

COG's Regional Food Systems Program

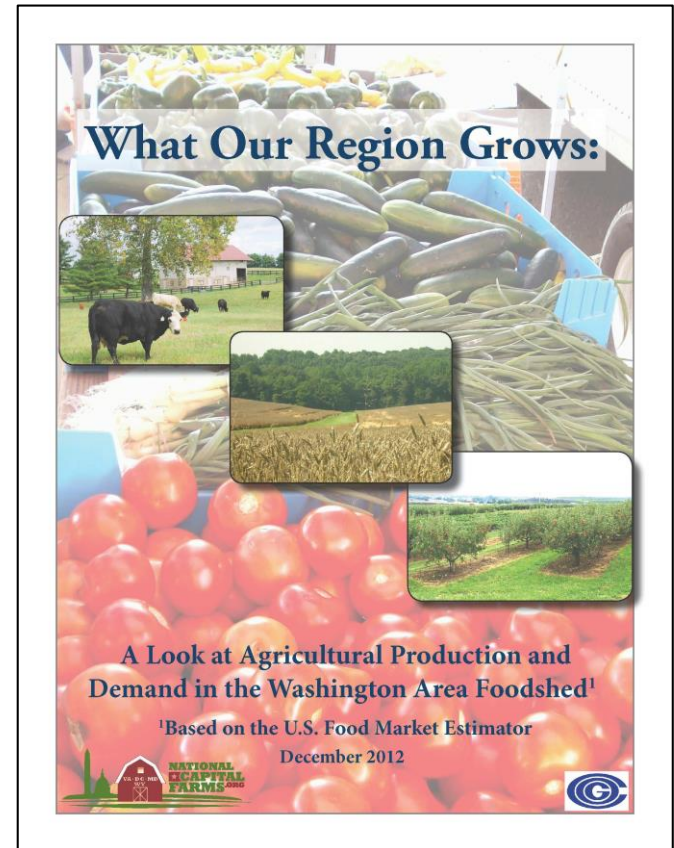
Current Priorities

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



Next Steps

- Update and release *What Our Region Grows*
- Continued implementation of Regional Food Systems Program Initiatives
- Strategic Planning with COG Members
 - Program Development
 - Sustainability



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

Featured Speaker

Jim Barham, Ph.D

**Agricultural Economist –
Food Systems Specialist
Rural Business-
Cooperative Service
USDA Rural Development**



Brian LeCouteur

Principal Environmental Planner Urban Forester /
Agricultural Programs Manager
(202) 962-3393
blecouteur@mwkog.org

Lindsay Smith

Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator
(202) 962-3307
lismith@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002