



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER AD-HOC COMMITTEE (FARM)

Friday, February 12, 2021
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

WebEx Virtual Meeting:

<https://mwcog.webex.com/mwcog/j.php?MTID=m394acabbe88e05185dcecd73d1e30b4f>

Meeting number: 185 620 8758

Password: FoodSecurity21*

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 185 620 8758

AGENDA

11:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

11:05 A.M. 2. FARM COMMITTEE, RELATED UPDATES, AND MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

President Reuben Collins, Charles County Board of Commissioners

An update on the recently concluded *Leaning into 2021: More Equitable, More Resilient* Town Hall series and other announcements.

Recommended Action: Approve draft meeting summary.

11:15 A.M. 3. FOOD SECURITY: SCHOOL MEALS

Dr. Patty Bennett, Regional Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Mid-Atlantic Region, United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Sandy Curwood, Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs, Virginia Department of Education

Robyn Douglas, Manager, Nutrition, Compliance, & Partnerships, Food and Nutrition Service, DC Public Schools

Additional speaker invitations pending

School meals are a critical source of nutrition for many of our region's children. During COVID-19 they have been available to all youth under 18 years old, irrespective of income and enrollment status. Despite broad availability of meals, participation rates remain low regionally and nationally.

Speakers will share federal and state updates and priorities for school meals and summer meals for the remainder of the federal fiscal year, offering recommendations on local and regional action to increase participation. Speakers may also address other programs like WIC and the Pandemic-EBT program.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing. Discuss potential opportunities for regional action to increase participation in school meal programs.

11:50 A.M. 4. FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE: EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS AT THE REGION'S FARMERS MARKETS

Hugo Mogollon, Executive Director, FRESHFARM and Board President, Virginia Farmers Market Association

Elizabeth Borst, Executive Director, Virginia Community Food Connections and Co-Lead, Virginia Fresh Match

Juliet Glass, Maryland Market Money External Relations Coordinator, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC)

Nick Stavely, Farmers Market Program Manager, FRESHFARM

Speakers will provide an overview of how farmers markets in DC, MD, and VA responded to COVID-19 in 2020. They will highlight policies and procedures to ensure a safe, on-time opening and successful operations in 2021. Speakers will provide background on how markets operate in the region, including those that are independently run and those that are managed under the umbrella of a nonprofit, business, or local jurisdiction.

Speakers will review how markets support low-income residents by deploying a range of federal, state, and local programs. Speakers will share their ideas for strengthening local and regional collaboration by leveraging federal and other funding to reduce barriers to healthy food for all.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and determine any appropriate action.

12:30 P.M. 5. UPDATE FROM THE MD AND VA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS AND COG PROGRAMMING

Lindsay Smith, Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator

COG will provide an update on food security-related legislation in the Maryland Virginia General Assemblies aligning with FARM's legislative priorities. There will also be information on COG's biweekly food security call series and other

meetings.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and determine if action should be taken on any of the presented bills.

12:45 P.M. 6. LOCAL UPDATES, DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A time for FARM Members to reflect on any actions taken related to the last meeting, and to share news about local food and agriculture policy and program developments.

1:00 P.M. 7. ADJOURN

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

The next virtual FARM Committee meeting is Friday, April 9th at 11:00 am.