



REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT

**HOSTED BY THE DMV FOOD COUNCIL COLLABORATIVE
& REGIONAL AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP**

Friday, May 17, 2024
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Summit Logistics

- [Directions to COG.](#)
 - Please check-in at the security desk, then go to the 3rd floor.
- Participants will contribute to several agenda items using [Poll Everywhere](#).
 - Please bring a phone or another mobile device to connect to WIFI.
- Streaming will be available for virtual attendees.
 - There will be online facilitation for agenda items 4 and 7.

Objectives

- Strengthen relationships between the FARM Policy Committee, Work Groups, and aggregation and distribution stakeholders.
- Develop shared understanding amongst stakeholders and decision-makers of the state of regional food aggregation and distribution systems, and of related, ongoing regional work.
- Inform future FARM Policy Committee work products, including the [What Our Region Grows](#) report.
- Identify the main barriers to progress and opportunities for collaboration on supply chain development and any potential next steps.

FINAL AGENDA

9:30 A.M. COFFEE, TEA, AND NETWORKING

Fresh fruit will be available from Green Bee Catering

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.
Visit www.mwcof.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME AND SHARING

*City of Fairfax Councilmember Jon Stehle, FARM Chair
District of Columbia Councilmember Zachary Parker, FARM Vice-Chair
Heather Bruskin, Director, Office of Food Systems Resilience, Montgomery
County*

Chair Stehle will provide a welcome and overview of the day. Vice Chair Parker will discuss meeting objectives as they relate to FARM's current Strategic Plan.

Following brief framing remarks from Ms. Bruskin on the Summit's origins and goals, COG staff will orient participants to the online engagement tool.

Chair Stehle and Vice Chair Parker will facilitate participant sharing in the room using the online platform.

10:30 A.M. 3. WHAT OUR REGION GROWS AND WHERE IT GOES PANEL DISCUSSION

*Lindsay Smith, Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator, COG
Renee Catacalos, Author, [The Chesapeake Table](#), Director of Strategic
Investments, [FRESHFARM](#)
Will Gray, Managing Director, [Eastern Food Hub Collaborative](#)*

Ms. Smith will moderate a discussion with Ms. Catacalos and Mr. Gray focused on the landscape of local and regional aggregation and distribution systems in Greater Washington. There will be time for questions and group discussion.

11:15 A.M. 4. MAPPING LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN PROJECTS AND ASSETS

*Zachary Parker, FARM Vice-Chair
Riley Piva, Program Analyst, [DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency](#) (DC HSEMA)
Lars Hanson, Research Scientist, [CNA](#) (virtual participation)*

Vice Chair Parker will introduce Ms. Piva to give a short presentation highlighting work and lessons learned through the region's Food and Water Resilience Project led by DC HSEMA. They will focus on mapping of food supply chain data to better prepare the region for future food system disruptions.

Small groups of participants will discuss and share other initiatives to gather data and qualitative information to assess barriers to, and opportunities for food supply chain development in and around their communities.

Vice Chair Parker will summarize and discuss themes that emerge from across the region.

12:00 PM 5. LUNCH

Box lunches provided by DC Central Kitchen Catering.

12:45 P.M. 6. REGIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN PROJECT LIGHTNING TALKS

*Ashley Drakeford, Co-Organizer and Chief Officer of Vibes, [The Capital Market](#)
Dr. Nadine Burton, Owner, [Tallawah Farms](#), Around the Bay Farmers' Alliance
Inc. (presenting virtually)*

Brandon Starkes, Founder & CEO, [The People's Market](#)

*Dr. Alex Lewin-Zwerdling, Owner, [Fruitful LLC](#), on the Cold Storage Working Group
Madelyn Smith, Executive Director, [Common Grain Alliance](#)*

Ms. Drakeford will facilitate lightning talks from four leaders who will provide highlights on diverse projects and initiatives from across the region and beyond. Talks will cover the values, aspirations, and impacts of the enterprises and projects the speakers lead. Speakers will highlight specific barriers encountered in aggregation and distribution, including any successes or solutions they can share.

A five-minute break will follow a panel Q&A session.

1:50 P.M. 7. WORLD CAFE: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR COLLABORATION

*Lauren DeSimone, Director of Place-Based and Food Systems Investment, [Locus](#)
Stuart Vermaak, Department Director of [Loudoun County Department of
Extension Services](#), Unit Coordinator for Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
Brittany Cook, Executive Associate to Secretary Strickland, [Maryland Department
of Emergency Management](#)*

Prior to the start of the activity, Ms. Desimone, Mr. Vermaak, and Ms. Cook will identify themes that have emerged from the summit and strategic topics for further conversation.

There will be one round of "World Cafe" style conversations to explore these themes in greater depth, including barriers and opportunities to expanding local food aggregation and distribution.

2:35 P.M. 8. SHARING, REFLECTIONS, AND CLOSING REMARKS

Jon Stehle, FARM Chair

Chair Stehle will invite facilitators from Item 7 to highlight critical points from the World Cafe discussions. FARM, Work Group members, and participants will reflect on progress made on the day's meetings objectives.

Chair Stehle and COG staff will close the event by summarizing any next steps or

questions for the FARM Policy Committee and its Work Groups.

2:50 P.M.

OPTIONAL: NETWORKING & SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

The next FARM Policy Committee meeting is Friday, June 14th at 10 am.