

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE

Update to the COG Board

Mary Cheh
FARM Chair

Craig Rice
FARM Vice Chair

Jon Stehle
FARM Vice Chair

COG Board of Directors
October 12, 2022

Today's Briefing

- FARM Policy Committee Milestones since Fall 2021
- White House Conference Highlights
- What's Ahead for FARM
- Request for Board Action in support of Childhood Food Security



School garden and outdoor classroom at Watkins Elementary School in the District of Columbia, one of several DC Public Schools that participate in FoodPrints. (Lindsay Smith/COG)

FARM Policy Committee Milestones

- Expanded new FARM Committee membership to include all interested COG member jurisdictions
- Held special meeting on land access for BIPOC farmers
- Created two new Work Groups
- Supported key pieces of state, federal legislation to increase food security and food system resilience

FARM Policy Committee Milestones

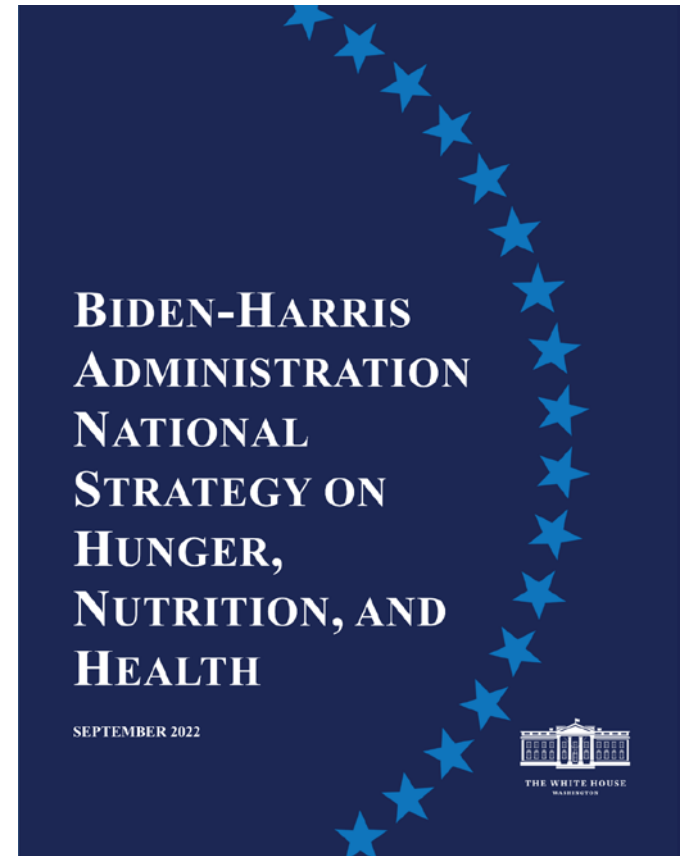
- Released *Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington*
- Held site visits for FARM Members and Regional Agricultural Work Group
- Started update to National Capital Farms.org



FARM Policy Committee members learn from Linda Lewis, one of the owner operators of the largest table-crop producing farms in Montgomery County, MD as part of the Agricultural Reserve tour. (Lindsay Smith/COG)

White House Conference Highlights

- Brought national spotlight to food insecurity, disparities, and diet-related disease
- National Strategy includes important administrative and legislative actions to end hunger
- Calls for Whole-of-Society Response
- Provided forum for other innovative ideas (i.e. Food Improvement Districts)



National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.



What's Ahead for FARM

- FARM meets this Friday at 11 A.M.
- First Annual Forum with the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service
- Midpoint assessment and continued implementation of FY23 Work Program



Ryan Kalivretenos in one of his hoop houses at Common Root Farm in Derwood, MD. (Lindsay Smith/COG)

Proposed Resolution R50-2022

- Food insecurity still impacts 1 in 10 Americans
- Rates may increase once pandemic-related relief expires
- People of color, households with children are disproportionately impacted
- Childhood Tax Credit shown to reduce childhood poverty and food insecurity
- Universal free school meals is a COG Board Legislative Priority
- Request Board approves Resolution R50-2022

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