



# Local Food Production in the Washington Metropolitan Region

*Agriculture's Role in Washington Regional  
Green Infrastructure*



*Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*

# Regional Green Infrastructure

- In 2004, COG produced the first region-wide land use / land cover database providing a ‘snapshot’ of green infrastructure (i.e. forest, agricultural lands, grassland, parks, etc.) Using a combination of Landsat 7 Imagery (30 Meter Resolution) and Ikonos Satellite Imagery (1 Meter Resolution, 1999/2000 data).

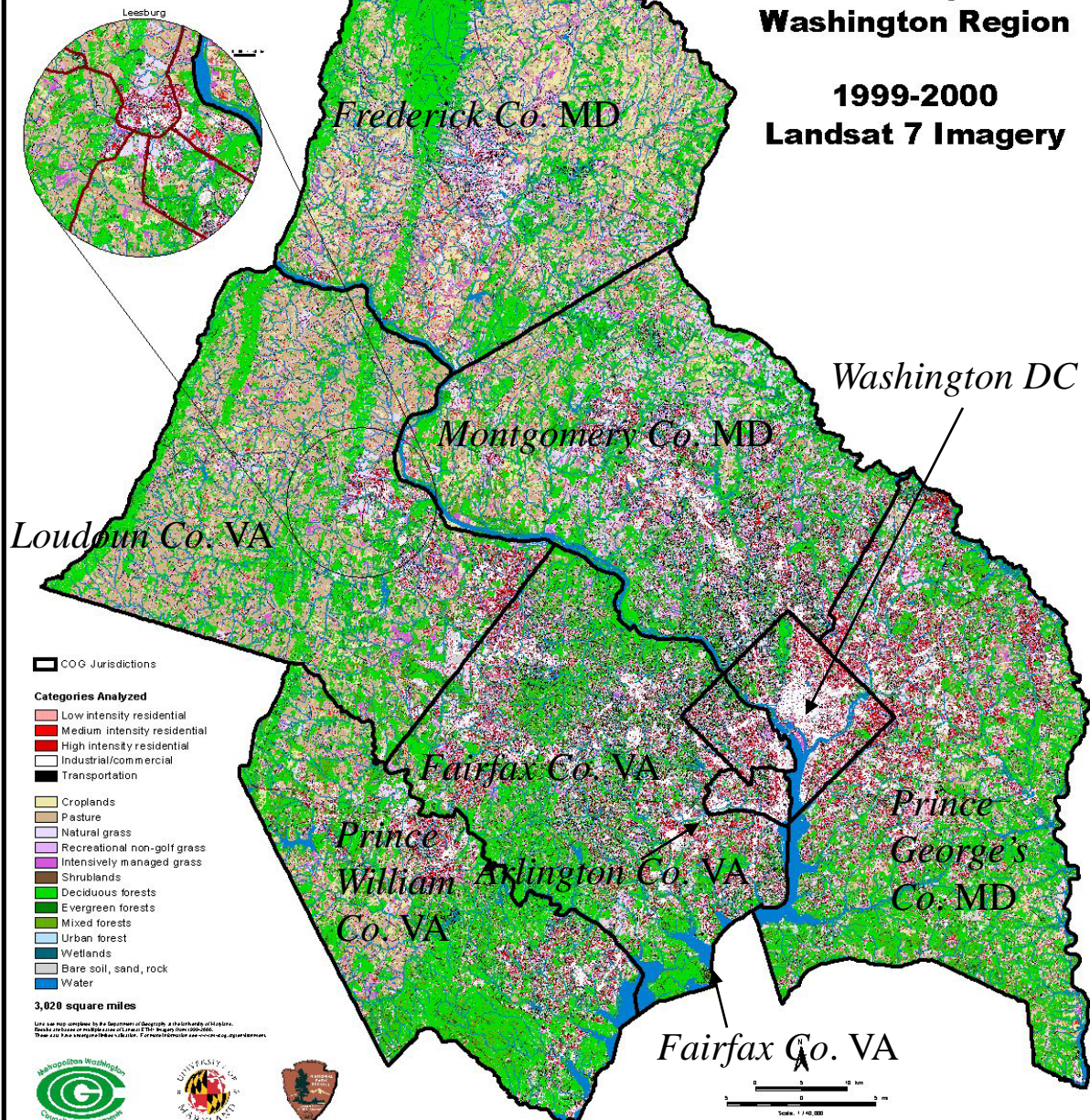


# What Can Be Learned by Studying Metropolitan Washington Green Infrastructure?

- ❖ Seek Innovative Approaches to Regional Planning Challenges
  - ❖ Develop Incentives and Tools for Open Space Set-Asides
  - ❖ Promote Case Studies of Green Infrastructure Success Stories
  - ❖ Support Regional Farm Preservation Efforts and Local Food Production
  - ❖ Maintain, Enhance & Connect Existing Green Infrastructure
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
















# Land Cover / Land Use within the COG Metropolitan Washington Region

1999-2000  
Landsat 7 Imagery



 COG Jurisdictions

### Categories Analyzed

-  Low intensity residential
-  Medium intensity residential
-  High intensity residential
-  Industrial/commercial
-  Transportation
-  Croplands
-  Pasture
-  Natural grass
-  Recreational non-golf grass
-  Intensively managed grass
-  Shrublands
-  Deciduous forests
-  Evergreen forests
-  Mixed forests
-  Urban forest
-  Wetlands
-  Bare soil, sand, rock
-  Water

## Categories Analyzed

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### *Chesapeake Bay Program Land Cover Categories*

**13 - Total – Land-Cover Classes**

**5 - Primary Land-Use Classes**

# Current COG Efforts - Overview

## Quantifying Regional Land Cover

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- **Green Infrastructure 2012 Update** to the 2004 Regional Landsat / Land Cover Map (Fall 2012)
- Provide recommendations for local forest cover and agricultural lands protection



# Working Lands in the Washington Region



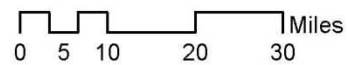
# The 'Core' Washington Agricultural Region



Products delivered to local farmers markets travel an average of 50-75 miles one-way; much of which originates in the twelve counties that surround the 3,600 sq. mi. Metro-region.

**N**  
**Legend**  
■ Regional Agricultural Workgroup Members  
■ Surrounding Counties

\*COG Member Jurisdiction





# COG Region Estimated Annual Agricultural Economic Contribution - 2007

Crop and Livestock\* + Vegetables +  
Horticultural + Orchard + Vineyard +  
Wineries + Equine  
= (one billion dollars) !!!

\* Livestock production does not include horse boarding facilities.

# Regional Agricultural Workgroup

*Promoting and Protecting Working Lands in the  
Washington Metropolitan Area*

*Formed: 2005*

The Regional Agricultural Workgroup's key focus is to investigate potential approaches for sustaining an economically viable regional agricultural system through better support of farms, farmers, farm programs and marketing of local agricultural products in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

*Members of the Washington Regional Agricultural Workgroup include:*

- *Frederick County, MD*
- *Montgomery County, MD*
- *Prince George's County, MD*
- *Loudoun County, VA*
- *Fauquier County, VA*
- *Jefferson County, WV*
- *Fresh Farm Markets*
- *Potomac Vegetable Farms*
- *Piedmont Environmental Council*
- *Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*



# Regional Agricultural Workgroup Priorities & Products

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- Promote Local Government Ag. Programs & Initiatives
- Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination
- Farm / Farm Market Support
- 2005 & 2010 Agricultural Working Lands Forums
- Regional Agriculture Web Site  
[www.nationalcapitalfarms.org](http://www.nationalcapitalfarms.org)
- Regional Agricultural Data
- “*What Our Region Grows*” Brochure  
(Fall 2012)



-Final Draft-

# What Our Region Grows:



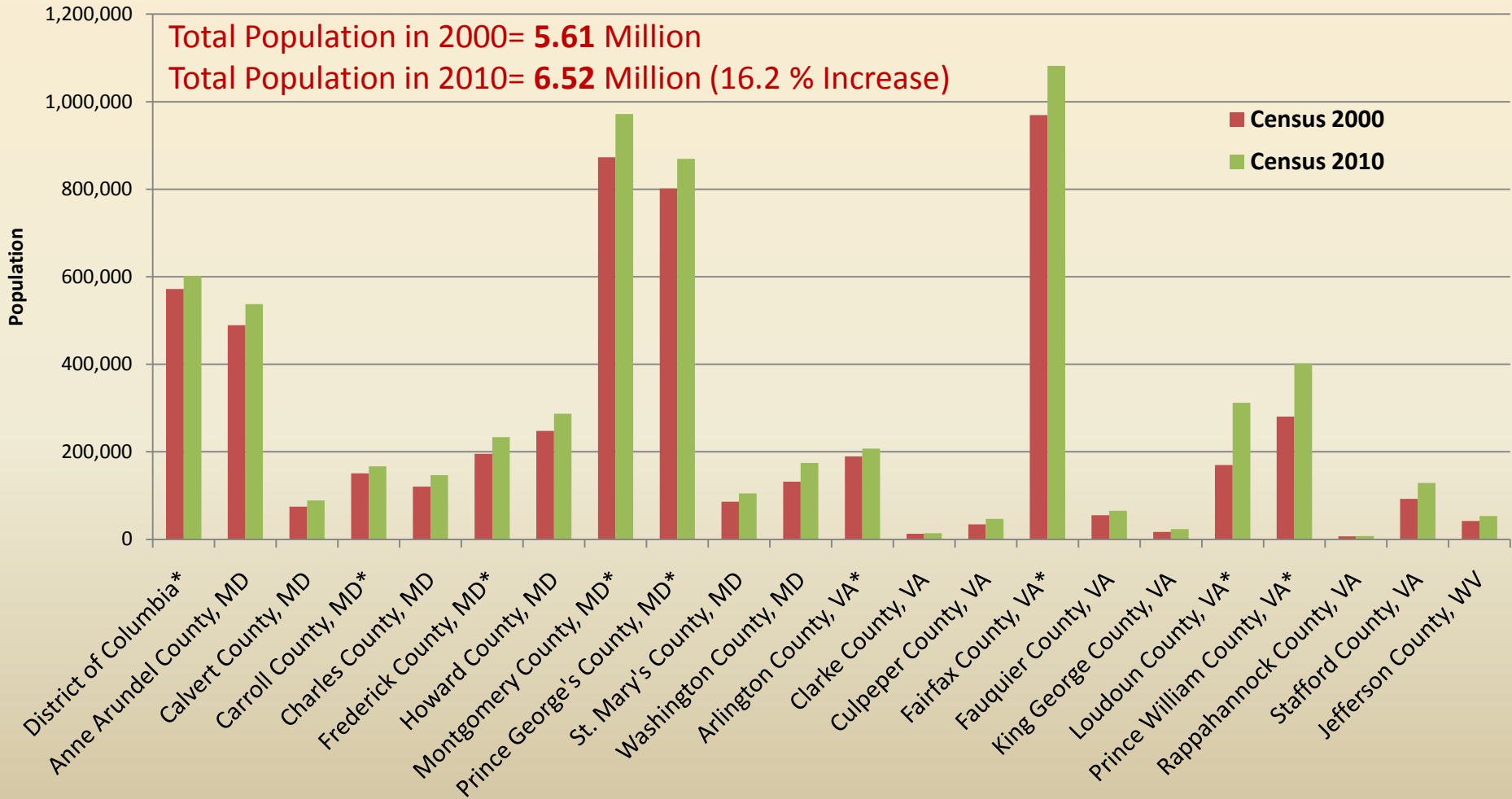
**A look at Agricultural Production and Demand in the Washington Area Foodshed<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Based on the U.S. Food Market Estimator



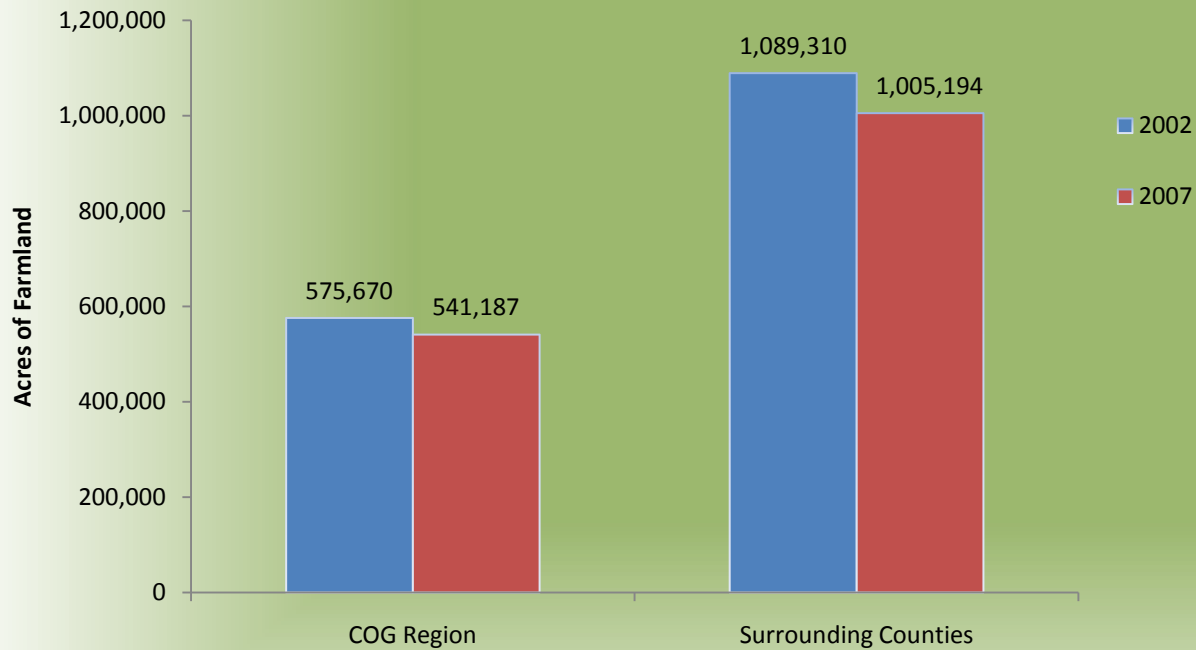
# Population Growth

## Regional Population: 2000-10



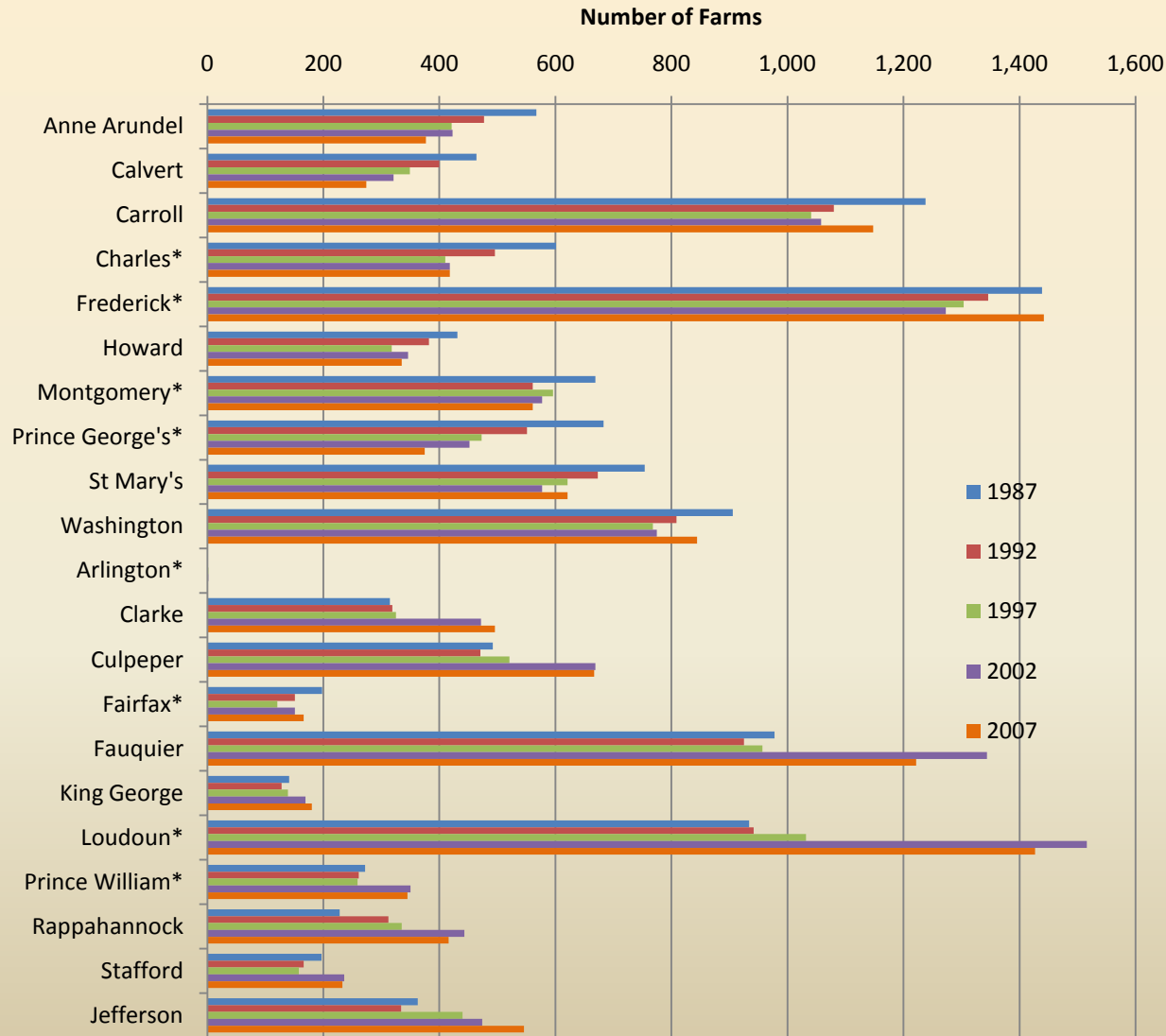
# Land In Farms

Figure 3. Acres of Farmland, 2002-2007



In 2007 1,549,381 acres (28%) of the 5,600,544 acres in the Washington Region were being used for Agriculture

# Number of Farms



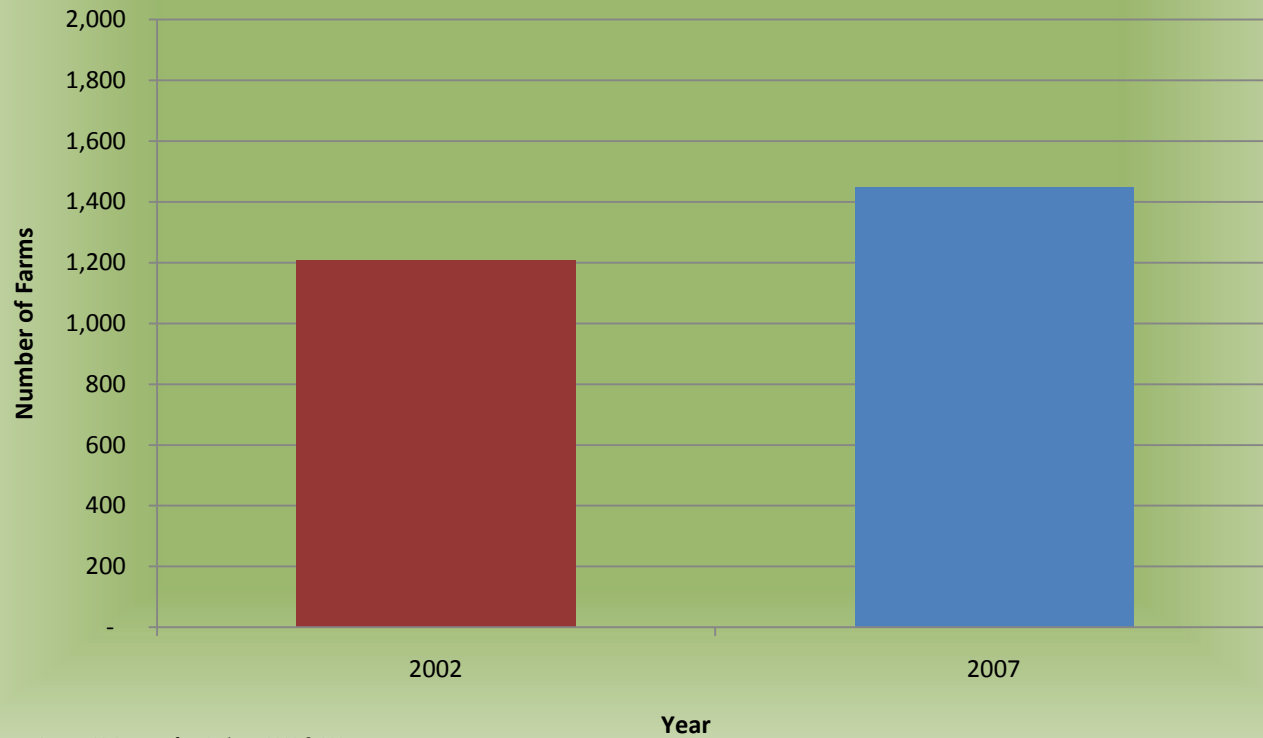
Total Number  
of Farms in  
the Region

1987= 11,871

2007= 12,093\*

\*Note: Average  
farm size is  
decreasing.

# More Small Farms



Source: USDA NASS Census of Agriculture 2002 & 2007.



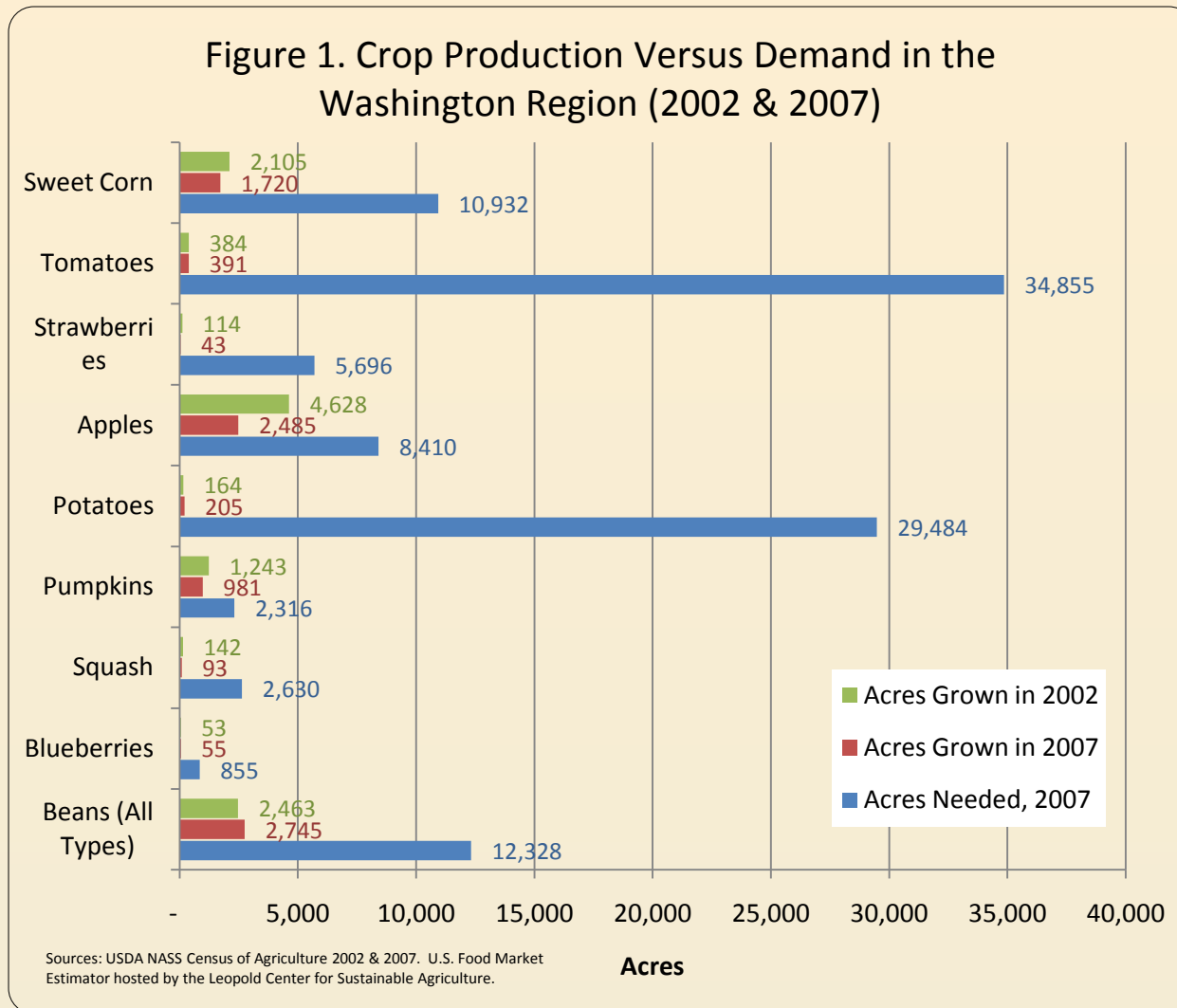
# Select Regional

# Production and Demand

*(According to the 2002 & 2007 USDA NASS Census of Agriculture)*

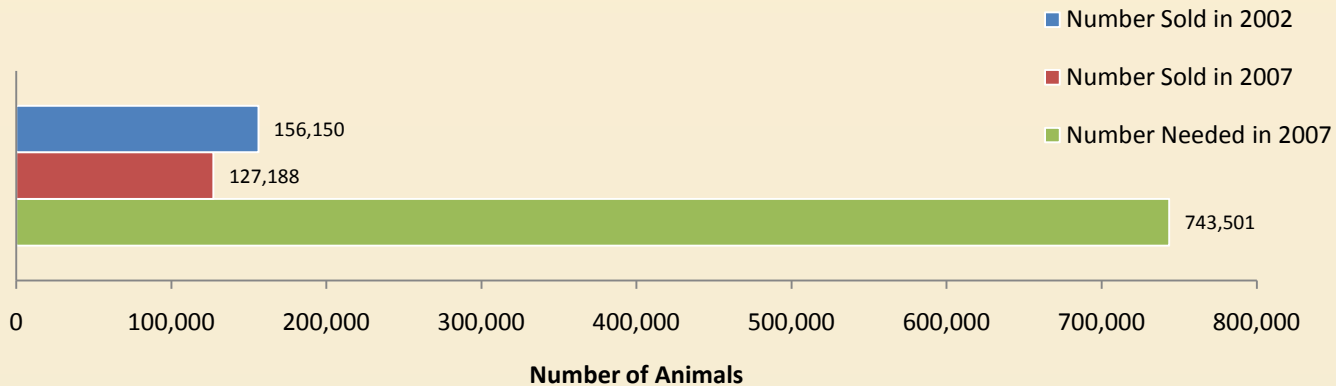
	Fruits			Vegetables				Starches			Meats			Dairy	
Jurisdiction	Blueberries	Strawberries	Apples	Beans	Tomatoes	Pumpkins	Squash	Potatoes	Sweet Corn	Corn Meal	Wheat Flour	Chicken	Beef*	Hogs	Milk
<b>Maryland</b>															
Frederick	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Montgomery	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Charles	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Prince George's	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Virginia</b>															
Arlington	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Fairfax	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Loudoun	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Prince William	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

# Crop Production vs. Demand in the Washington Region (2002 & 2007)

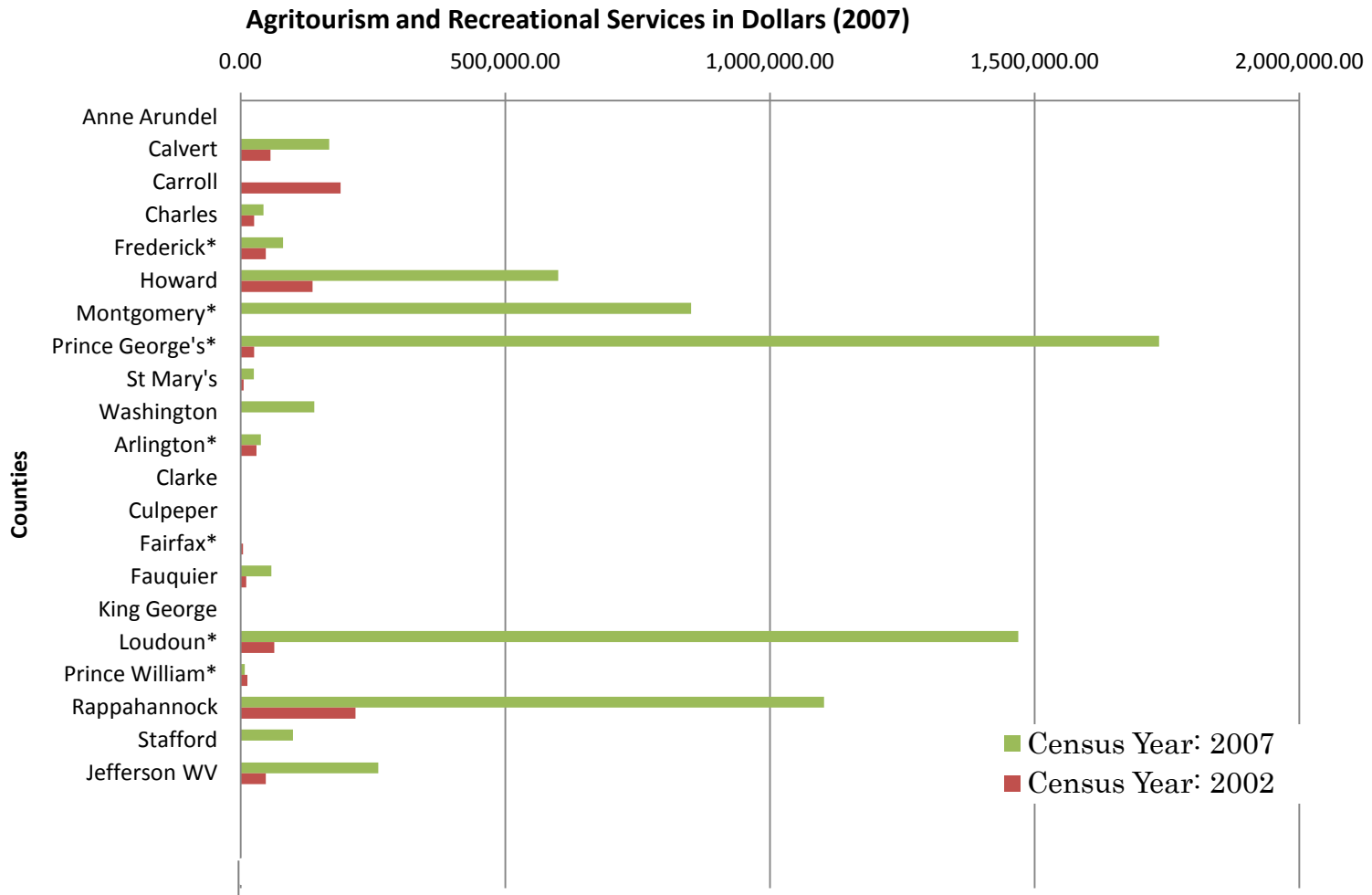


# Select Livestock Production vs. Consumption in the Washington Region (2002 & 2007)

Figure 7b. Beef Production Versus Demand in the Washington Region



# Agritourism Contribution



# Report Recommendations

- Develop a regional strategic agricultural support plan
- Remove / modify regulatory obstacles
- Create farm incubator training and local processing facilities
- Promote farmer-friendly tax incentives
- Maintain adequate funding for agricultural-related support services

# Report Recommendations – *Continued*

- Develop new food hub / aggregator opportunities
- Support agriculture in the school curriculum
- Aggressively market local agriculture
- Expand farmer-mentoring and land leasing opportunities
- Make farming-related loans easier to obtain

# *Next Steps*

- Integrate 'Brochure' with both Region & Economy Forward Initiatives & Committees
- Finalize Brochure with Regional Agricultural Workgroup (October 2012)
- **Bring Back Brochure for CBPC Approval at the November Meeting**

# *For More Information...*

[www.nationalcapitalfarms.org](http://www.nationalcapitalfarms.org)



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