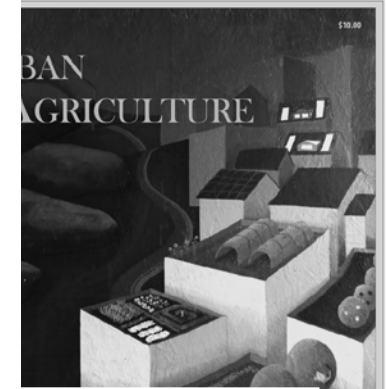
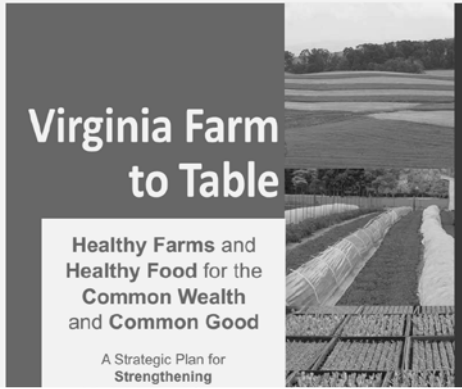
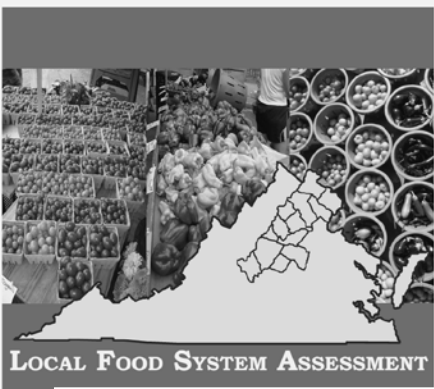


Leveraging COG's Expertise and Network to Grow the Local Food Economy in the National Capital Region

September 15, 2016

Lindsay Smith, AICP
Regional Food Systems
Value Chain Coordinator



“A surge in consumer demand for locally-produced food is creating jobs and opportunity throughout rural America for farms as well as the small businesses that store, process, market and distribute food locally and regionally. Industry data indicate that local food sales totaled at least \$12 billion in 2014 and estimate that the market value could hit \$20 billion by 2019.”

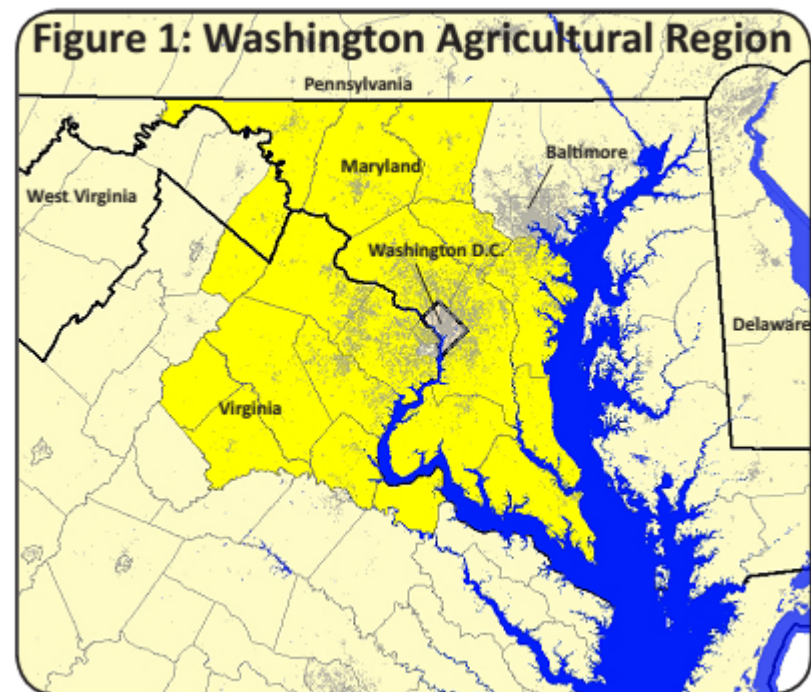
USDA Results: Local and Regional Food Systems

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=usda-results-local.html>



Food & Agriculture in the National Capital Region

- COG's 2012 *What Our Region Grows Report* found 28% of 8,629 sq mile Washington Agricultural Region in agricultural land use
- Preserves critical open space, contributes approx \$1 billion/year to economy
- Commodity farming predominates, growing interest and production of a range of other agricultural products, local seafood



Washington Agricultural Region from
What Our Region Grows

Food & Agriculture at COG

- COG's Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) hosted a Regional Agricultural Workgroup since 2006
- Selected to participate in USDA's new Food LINC pilot
- Programming aligns with COG's [Region Forward](#) vision



Regional farm products at Arcadia's Mobile Market serving low-income communities in DC and Northern VA

Regional Food System Value Chain Coordination

- Priority focus areas for work:
 - Enhancing direct-to-consumer and other high value markets
 - Exploring opportunities for cooperative (wholesale) procurement
 - Launching a Local Food Distribution Working Group
 - Providing ad hoc technical assistance to COG members, regional information
- Serve as connector, resource prospector, strategic convener, collaborator on other planning initiatives



Local Food Distribution Work Group

- Background Issues
 - Inefficiencies & Opportunities
- Proposal Highlights
 - Objectives, Key Stakeholders
- Initial Feedback



DISCUSSION

- What questions or comments do you have on the proposal?
- Are you interested in participating in some way?
- Referrals?



More Information

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