

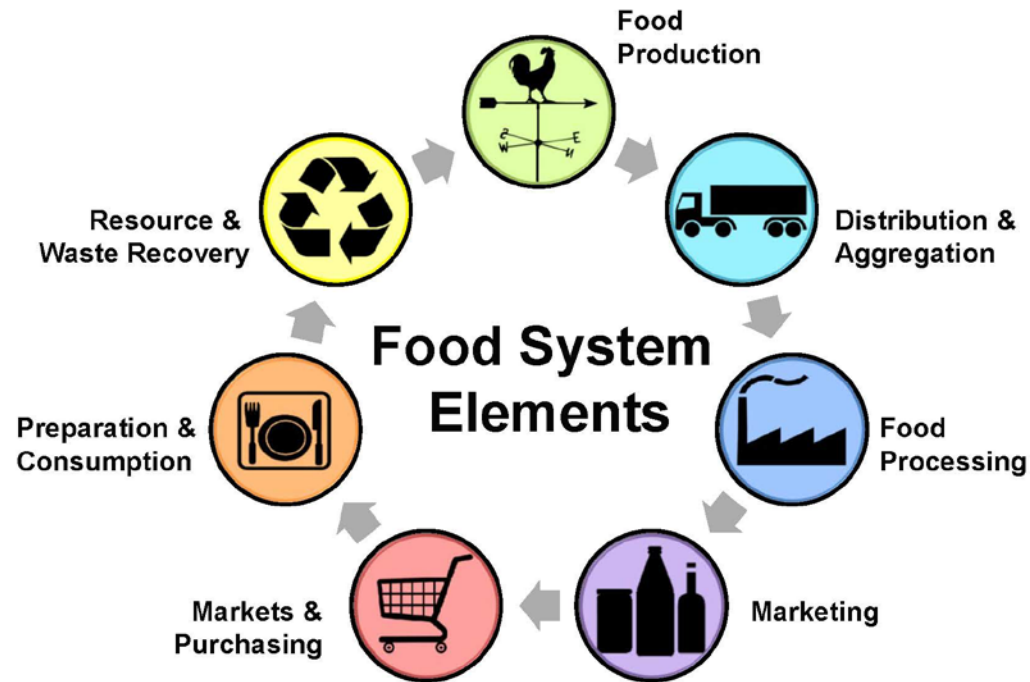
LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

COG and the Region

Steve Walz
COG Department of Environmental Programs Director

Presentation to the COG Board of Directors
June 13, 2018

What is a Local/Regional Food System?



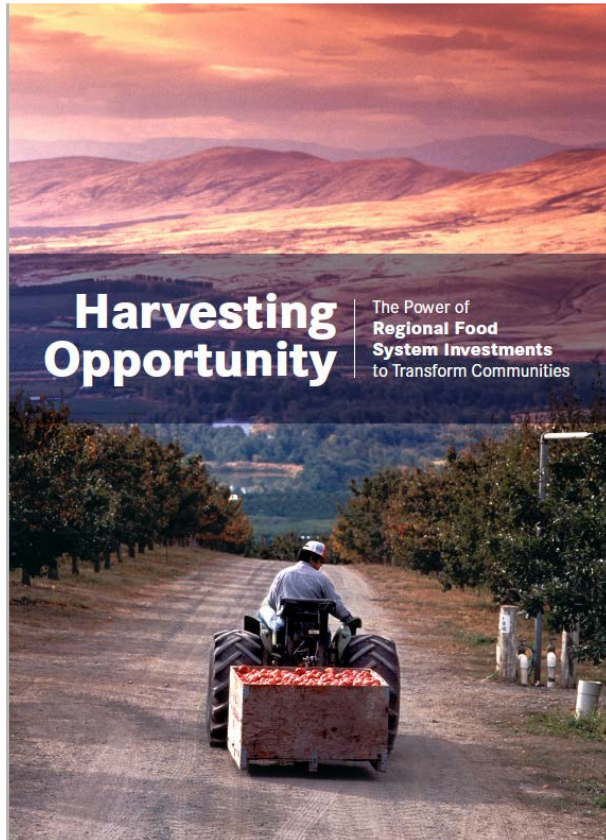
Adapted by Christy Shi, Center for Environmental Farming Systems.

From: Wilkins, J. and Eames-Sheavly, M. Discovering the Food System; An experiential learning program for young and inquiring minds.

Cornell University, Departments of Nutritional Science and Horticulture. <http://www.discoverfoodsvs.cornell.edu/>



Why Regional Food Systems Planning?



Economic Impacts

Washington, D.C.

Production, Distribution, Grocery, Restaurants, & Support Industries ¹

\$5.47 billion total value added economic impact

Maryland (COG Localities)

Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, & Support Industries ²

\$2.9 billion in economic impact

Virginia (COG Localities)

Agriculture & Forestry ³

\$2.23 billion in economic impact



Notes

- ¹ Preliminary findings from DC Food Economy Study
- ² Economic Impact of Select Resource Based Industries in Maryland
- ³ The Economic Impact of Virginia's Agricultural and Forest Industries

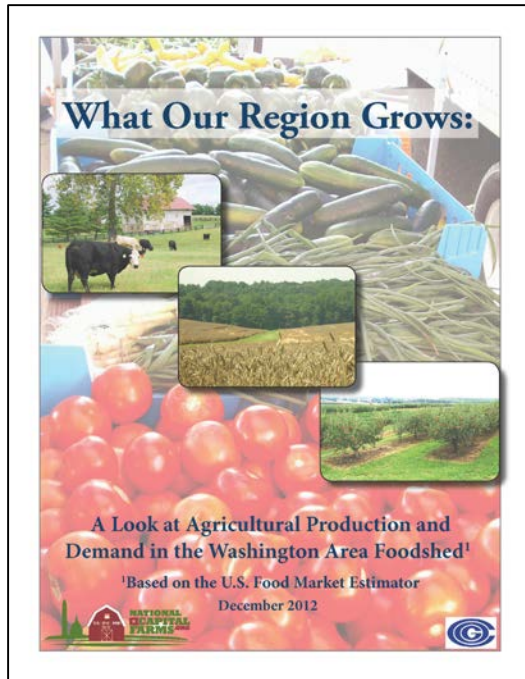
COG's Regional Food Systems Program

Priorities:

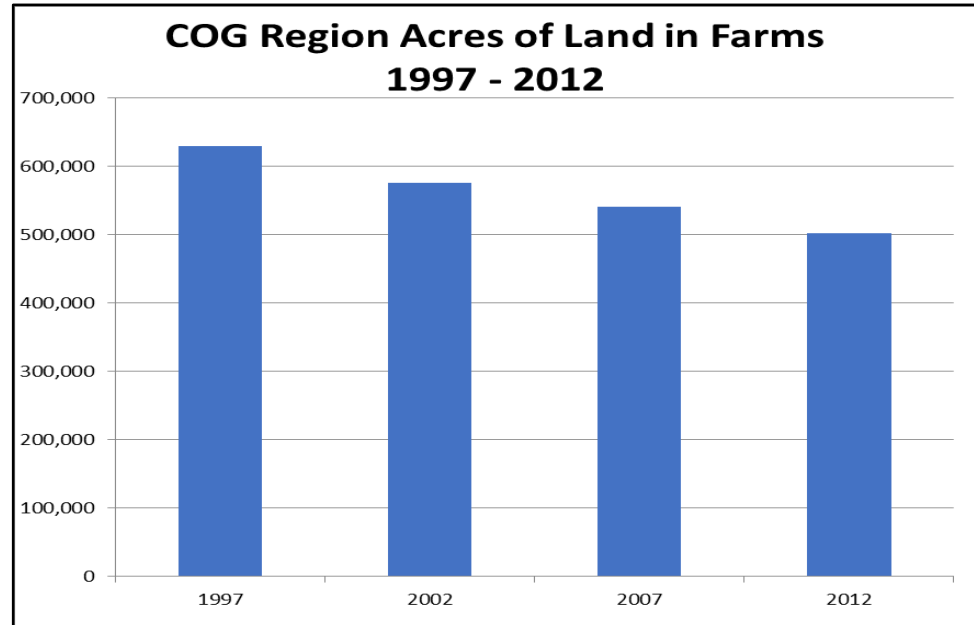
- Foster Local Food and Agriculture Business Connections
- Expand Market Opportunities
- Increase Access to Local Food
- Support Food and Agriculture Policy and Infrastructure



Food and Agriculture in our Region



* Locally collected, preliminary data from 2018 update to *What Our Region Grows* (Subject to change)



2017 COG Region*

218,271 acres of preserved farmland

4,616 farms (+ 23 urban farms)

153 farmers markets

155 breweries, wineries, +



What Our Region Grows: 2018 Update

- Grain dominates production
- Growth in on-farm craft beverage enterprises, vineyards, agritourism operations, urban agriculture
- Support services necessary for a healthy agricultural economy
- Declining production levels and dairy is in crisis
- What kind of food and agricultural future do we want?



Next Steps + Announcements

- Complete *What Our Region Grows*
– Fall 2018 release
- Implementation of Regional Food Systems Program Priorities
- Strategic direction setting with COG members

Announcement

- Regional Food Summit, September 2018



Liked by [cultivatethecity](#), [grr429](#) and 96 others

[loveandcarrots](#) Have a RADish Friday! This week brought an explosion of growth at the [@tenatclarendon](#) rooftop farm. We take pride in sustainably producing organic vegetables for the residents. This is the #futureoffood! ❤️🌍

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