



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER AD-HOC COMMITTEE (FARM)

Friday, January 8, 2020
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

WebEx Virtual Meeting:

<https://mwcog.webex.com/mwcog/j.php?MTID=m7e7b3b2c06a61a6d5d38e8cdb4fcac9a>

Meeting number: 178 619 9824

Password: @FoodSec21

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 178 619 9824

AGENDA

11:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

11:05 A.M. 2. FARM COMMITTEE UPDATES AND MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

The Chair will provide an update on the food and agriculture legislative priorities, the letter to the USDA transition team, and ask for approval of draft summary of the December 2020 FARM meeting.

Recommended Action: Approve draft summary

11:15 A.M. 3. FOOD SECURITY IN FOCUS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICY UPDATES

Ellen Teller, Director of Government Affairs, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Dr. Beverley Wheeler, Executive Director, DC Hunger Solutions

Michael J Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions

Leaders from FRAC and local partners will provide a briefing on what December's COVID relief bill means for food insecure community members and what issues

advocates will continue to work on in 2021 to strengthen federal, state, and local response.

Speakers will highlight how enrollment in federal benefit programs has been changing since the onset of the pandemic, top challenges they're seeing in the region to maximizing participation, as well as potential solutions. Opportunities to strengthen connections between community members and local and regional food and farm businesses will be addressed.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

11:50 A.M. 4. FOOD SECURITY IN FOCUS: VIRGINIA'S ROADMAP TO END HUNGER AND MAXIMIZING ENROLLMENT IN FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN 2021

*Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
Heidi Hertz, Assistant Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry or designee*

Virginia's Roadmap to End Hunger was released in the Fall of 2020, following listening sessions and other analysis from Governor Northam's Children's Cabinet. Among other recommendations, the roadmap calls for expanding childhood nutrition programs and maximizing enrollment in SNAP and WIC.

Speakers will highlight plans for working toward these goals in 2021, including observations on how local leaders can help. They will also share how the roadmap connects healthy food access to Virginia's agricultural economy.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

12:05 P.M. 5. FOOD SECURITY IN FOCUS: MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

*Craig Rice, Councilmember, Montgomery County and FARM Vice Chair
Heather Bruskin, Executive Director, Montgomery County Food Council
Jeremy Criss, Director, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture*

At the start of the pandemic, Montgomery County formed a Food Security Task Force to respond to increasing levels of food insecurity. Using CARES Act money, county and other funds, and a data-driven approach, the county and its partners have collaboratively mobilized resources and volunteers in multi-faceted, holistic way. Speakers will provide a high-level overview of how the county's strategy works; highlighting any emerging lessons or key questions of regional interest as the need for food assistance remains high. They will also reflect on challenges and successes in the implementation of federal nutrition benefit programs.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

12:40 P.M. 6. FARM COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Lindsay Smith, Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator

Primary topics for the February and April meetings based on the priorities discussion at the November and December meetings will be proposed. An update on the Metro DC Biweekly Food Security and Food Access call schedule will also be shared.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and approve February and April meeting topics

12:45 P.M. 7. LOCAL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A time for FARM Members to share news about local food and agriculture policy and program developments

1:00 P.M. 8. ADJOURN

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair