

## REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION & DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT:

Advancing Institutional Sourcing of Regionally Grown Foods

Hosted by the COG FARM Policy Committee's DMV Food Council Collaborative & Regional Agricultural Work Group

## REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION & DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT

#### Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### **Steve Bieber**

Director, Water Resources Program, COG

#### **Andrew Friedson**

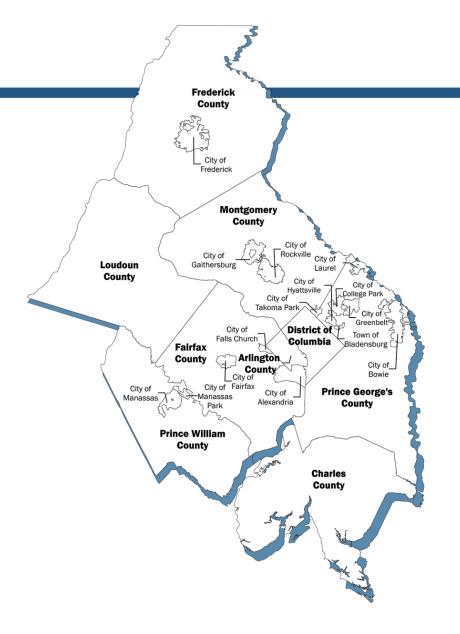
Councilmember, Montgomery County, Maryland and COG FARM Committee Chair



#### **About COG**

- An independent, nonprofit association founded in 1957.
- Brings area leaders together to address regional issues and plan for the future.
- 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress, representing about 6 million residents.
- Home of the Transportation Planning Board, the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- 125+ staff.







# Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee

Mission: To support development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more resilient, secure, equitable, connected food and farm economy (food system) across
Metropolitan Washington's urban, suburban, and rural communities to provide more of the region's food needs.

## 2025 REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION & DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT:

#### **Summit Overview**

**Sydney Daigle**Regional Food Systems Consultant,
FARM Policy Committee, COG

### **Summit Planning Committee**

- Many thanks to the members that planned today's summit:
  - Sara Pollock Hoverter, Director, Center for Community Health Innovation, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law
  - Dalila Boclin, Director of Food System Investment, Locus
  - Kashaf Momin, Policy Analyst, DC Office of Planning
  - o Caron Gremont, Director, Food System Resiliency & Innovation, FRESHFARM
  - o Lauren DeSimone, Director, Food Systems Development, Locus
  - o Grace Leatherman, Executive Director, Future Harvest
  - Natalia Salazar, Ag Business Development Specialist, MoCo Office of Agriculture
  - o Elisa Solomon, Project Coordinator, Fairfax Food Council











# 2024 Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Summit



#### **Summit Resource Folder**

- Access relevant resources through the QR Code or at this link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3Mzesjt">https://bit.ly/3Mzesjt</a>
- Folder resources include:
  - Summit Agenda
  - Speaker Bios
  - Speaker Presentation Slides
  - Summary of 2024 Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Summit Learnings





#### **Paired Introductions**

- Find someone near you that you don't know well.
- Take a minute each to answer this prompt:
  - Share your name, role, and organization
  - One concrete barrier your institution or sector faces in values-based procurement (e.g., budget, contracting, timing, scale, distribution)
  - One practical ask or offer (a tool, contact, practice, or partnership) you're seeking or willing to share today



Plow and Stars Farm 2019, Montgomery County, MD (Lindsay Smith)



## 2025 REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION & DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT:

**KEYNOTE:** The Power and Potential of Regional Procurement

Alice Chalmers
Senior Advisor, Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center

## 2025 REGIONAL FOOD AGGREGATION & DISTRIBUTION SUMMIT:

#### Overcoming Challenges in Values-Based Procurement

- Sara Pollock Hoverter, Director, Center for Community Health Innovation, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law
- Dalila Boclin, Director of Food System Investment, Locus
- Thelonius Cook, Owner-Operator, Mighty Thundercloud Edible Forest & Board President, Mid-Atlantic Black Farmers Caucus
- Andrea Early, Director of Food and Nutrition, Prince William County Public Schools

#### **Tabletop Talks**

- Conference Room 3: Getting Ahead of the Curve: Forward-Planning Guidance and Success Stories
  - Amy Zerante, Farm to School Account Manager, 4P Foods
- Conference Room 1: Harvesting Success: Connecting Students and Community Through Local Food Procurement
  - Jason Tepper, Executive Chef, School Nutrition, Alexandria City Public Schools
- Main Room: Meeting the Mark: Maryland's 20% Local Food Institutional Food Sourcing Requirement
  - Stepanie Lansing, Professor, University of Maryland & Co-Chair, MD Food System Resilience Council
  - Karen Fedor, Administrator, Farm and Foods Program, MD Department of Agriculture
- Collaborating Space: Workforce Matters: Centering Labor as a Values-Based Procurement Strategy
  - Nezahualcoyotl Xiuhtecutli, Sr. Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

#### **Breakout Sessions**

- Main Room: Innovative Contracting Models and Procurement Strategies
- Conference Room 3: Policy & Legislative Advocacy for Local Procurement
- Conference Room 1: Technology & Resource Sharing

