



## **COG FARM Policy Committee Annual Farm Tour**

**Frederick County, Maryland  
Friday, October 17, 2025  
10 am to 2:30 pm**

Thank you to the [Frederick County Office of Agriculture](#) for hosting the [FARM Policy Committee's](#) Third Annual Farm Tour. The tour officially begins at 10 am and ends at 2:30 pm. There is an optional farm visit at 9 am and optional networking after the tour.

In addition to learning from featured producers about their diverse operations, each farmer has experience selling to schools and can discuss what has enabled them to produce for these institutions.

9:00 to 9:45 am: Visit and tour of District Farms (Optional)  
4500 E Basford Rd, Frederick, MD 21703

*Join Ali Sharifzadeh, CEO of District Farms, and his team to tour this commercial hydroponic greenhouse. An example of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) which optimizes growing conditions and mitigates risks like changing weather, District Farms serves a variety of clients year-round.*

**Important note:** Parking is limited at this location. Please indicate your participation in the [RSVP form](#). COG will contact you if we've exceeded available space. Carpooling welcome and encouraged.

10:00 am: **Arrive at North Frederick Park & Ride**  
2810 Monocacy Blvd, Frederick, MD 21701

*Participants will receive tour information and board the bus.*

10:15 am: Bus departs Park & Ride.

10:35 am: Arrive at [Moon Valley Farm](#)  
9700 Gravel Hill Rd, Woodsboro, MD 21798

*Following welcoming remarks from the Frederick County Office of Agriculture and FARM's leadership, participants will meet Emma Jagoz, first-generation farmer and founder of Moon Valley Farms. Emma will share her journey building and scaling her diversified vegetable farm to what it is today: a thriving, year-round operation that serves individuals, restaurants, schools, and other organizations. She will provide a tour of the farm, including its aggregation facility which also receives, stores, and distributes products from Moon Valley partner farms.*

11:50 am: Leave Moon Valley Farm

12:00 pm: Arrive to [Catoctin Mountain Orchard](#)  
15036 N Franklinville Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788

*Participants will be welcomed by Catoctin Mountain Orchard Co-owner, Bob Black, before enjoying lunch and hearing from several speakers prior to the tour:*

- *Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Councilmember, FARM Chair*
- *Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive, Frederick County (invited)*
- *Frederick County Office of Agriculture*
- *Frederick County Food Council*

1:00 pm: Tour Catoctin Mountain Orchard

*Meet with Bob Black, second generation co-owner and Katelyn Robertson, the fourth generation of Catoctin Mountain Orchard, to learn about their orchard and how this family farm has overcome challenges and opportunities. Catoctin Mountain Orchard was the first farm in the area to sell to schools, growing apples specifically for the schools that are smaller and easier for children to handle. This diversified farm grows apples, peaches, pears, nectarines, plums, and variety of vegetables and flowers. Bob was inducted into the International Fruit Growers Hall of Fame in 2025.*

*Participants will have time to use the restroom and explore the Orchard's on-farm market if they would like to.*

2:05 pm: Leave Catoctin Mountain Orchard

2:30 pm: **Bus arrives at North Frederick Park & Ride**

*Tour ends*

2:45/3:00 pm: Networking at [McClintock Distilling Company](#) (Optional)  
35 South Carroll Street, Frederick, MD 21701

*McClintock Distilling Company is the first organic distillery in Maryland and sources locally whenever possible.*