



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, April 10, 2026
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Virtual Only

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/22439639030941?p=daQPv3FkGewulJoWt5>

Meeting ID: 224 396 390 309 41

Passcode: zj6bS9nY

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Phone conference ID: 141 103 106#

AGENDA

- 10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
Councilmember Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair
Supervisor Laura TeKrony, FARM Vice Chair

Chair Friedson and Vice Chair TeKrony will welcome members, invite new member introductions, and seek approval of the February meeting summary.

Recommended Action: Approve February meeting summary.

- 10:10 A.M. 2. LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT CHALLENGE UPDATE**
Councilmember Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair
Sara Pollock Hoverter, Director, Center for Community Health Innovation, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center
Heather Bruskin, Director, Montgomery County Office of Food System Resilience

Chair Friedson will discuss Montgomery County’s successful passage of Resolution committing to participation in the Local Food Procurement Challenge (LFPC). Sara Hoverter will provide an update on the first LFPC Community of Practice meeting on Friday, April 17th. Ms. Bruskin will describe how Montgomery County recommends some local sourcing in its county grants to food assistance organizations.

Members are encouraged to share LFPC updates from their jurisdictions.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing; discuss.

10:25 A.M. 3. GROCERY RETAIL AND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS IN THE REGION

Stephanie Johnson, RDN, Group Vice President, Government Relations, National Grocers Association

Mike Houston, General Manager, Takoma Park Silver Spring CO-OP

Radha Muthiah, CEO, Capital Area Food Bank

Tariq Sheriff, Business Development & Strategy Manager, District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

At the end of January, Amazon announced [the closure of its nine Amazon Fresh stores](#) in the region. Last fall, Shoppers also closed stores in the region, however, there have also been new entrants selling groceries at lower price points, like Lidl.

At the same time, HR 1, made significant changes to the SNAP program last summer. Enrollment is expected to decline as certain groups of participants become newly ineligible for benefits. In addition, there are other changes to federal policies (i.e. soda waivers, stocking requirements, etc.) which will affect program participants and retailers alike.

The speakers will offer a broad look at the grocery industry, including retailer attraction and retention, grocery pricing, participation in food donation and recovery, and the ways in which policy changes will impact grocers from larger chains to smaller independents.

11:25 A.M. 4. URBAN AGRICULTURE ROADMAP FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Fairfax County

Stacey Evers, Chair and Co-founder, [Hands on Harvests](#) and outgoing Urban Agriculture Specialist, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and FARM Member, Dalia Palchik, has provided key support for the forthcoming *Urban Agriculture Roadmap*. The roadmap is a stakeholder-driven study on barriers and recommendations for increasing local food production in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.

Ms. Evers will share key findings and preview several recommendations to expand access to production space for farmers and gardeners in Fairfax and Fairfax County.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing; discuss.

11:55 A.M. 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12:00 P.M. 6. ADJOURN

Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair

Next FARM Committee meeting is Friday, September 18th from noon to 2 pm.
This will be a joint meeting with COG's Human Services Policy Committee.