



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

News Release

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Office of Agriculture Unveils Strategic Plan to Support Industry

FREDERICK, Md. – Frederick County's rich agricultural heritage has been a cornerstone of the community for generations. To ensure this vital industry remains strong, the Office of Agriculture developed a strategic plan that was unveiled today. The *Plan for Building an Economy around the Agricultural Entrepreneur* makes recommendations in five key areas: regulation, workforce development, infrastructure, the value chain, and marketing.

"Agriculture is an essential part of our economy, and this strategic plan gives us concrete steps to ensure farms and farmers can thrive in Frederick County for generations to come," County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. "We all rely on farmers for the food we eat each day. With this plan, we are taking another step to show farmers that they can rely on this community to support their work."

The Agriculture Strategic Plan examines industry trends and offers best practices. More than 100 people from Frederick County's agricultural community gave input, expertise and insights to shape the report.

Taken together, the plan's 28 recommendations outline ways to:

- **Help farmers work together.** Create ways for people to share ideas and help each other solve problems. For instance, a mentor program would allow experienced farmers to teach people new to the business.
- **Preserve farmland.** As the county grows, prime land is at risk of development. To protect fertile soil, preservation programs such as the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation should be enhanced.
- **Teach people about farming.** Offer special classes and events to help schoolchildren and adults learn about where their food comes from.
- **Make farming easier.** Provide the industry with the tools and workers they need. For example, the study recommends building a center where farmers can get help marketing their products and finding workers.

The Frederick County Office of Agriculture Strategic Plan can be found online [here](#). Under the leadership of Director Katie Stevens, the Office's mission is to preserve Frederick County's farming heritage, assist farmers in their endeavors, and promote a thriving agricultural sector. Learn more at www.HomegrownFrederick.com.

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