



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

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County Executive

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News Release

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Frederick County's Agriculture Innovation Grant Program Receives Rural Economic Development Award



FREDERICK, Md. – Frederick County Government is proud to announce that its Agriculture Innovation Grant Program has been honored with the Rural Economic Development Award by the Rural Maryland Council. This prestigious recognition highlights the County's exceptional efforts to promote agricultural innovation, job creation, and economic growth in rural communities.

"This award is a true reflection of the hard work, dedication, and exceptional contributions of our agricultural community and the Frederick County Office of Agriculture," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "We are honored to be recognized by the Rural Maryland Council and remain committed to supporting innovation and sustainability in our farming sector."

The Rural Economic Development Award was formally presented on November 19 at the 2025 Rural Summit. This event brought together leaders from across the state to celebrate achievements and explore strategies for strengthening Maryland's rural communities.

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The Agriculture Innovation Grant Program was launched in January 2021. Since then, it has completed nine competitive funding cycles, awarding more than \$1.76 million to support 77 innovative agricultural projects across the county. These projects have collectively generated over 300 new jobs, underscoring the program's significant impact on Frederick County's rural economy.

The program's success is further demonstrated by its strong return on investment: for every \$1 of County funding, recipients have contributed an additional \$3.50 in private investment, amplifying the program's economic reach and long-term sustainability.

The Agriculture Innovation Grant Program is funded at \$250,000 annually, distributed across two application cycles, one in March and one in October. The next cycle will open in March 2026.

For more information about the program, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/AgGrant.

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