Our economy depends on the ~82,000 farms in the lower mid-Atlantic. In Maryland alone, agriculture creates about 300,000 jobs, making it the state’s largest commercial sector.

Our farmer workforce is facing a mass exodus. 20% of the region’s farmers are approaching retirement. Lack of support for small-scale agriculture = lack of replacement farmers = farm sell-offs, mainly to commercial development.

Our land and soil are being destroyed. One teaspoon of healthy soil holds more nutrient-building and water-holding microbes than people on Earth, but excessive use of tillage, fertilizer, and herbicide are harming soil.

Our Bay has miles-long “dead” zones due to nutrient pollution from unsustainable ag practices. Cover crops, buffer strips, and reduced fertilizer prevent runoff.

For more information: www.futureharvestcasa.org
Our food security is at great risk. The region could largely feed itself, but ~95% of what we grow is livestock feed, soy and other crops, mostly for export. We import most of what we eat.

Our health is suffering. 23% of DC residents and 34% of Baltimore residents are obese. To ensure all have access to the freshest food, farmers are learning to use SNAP, WIC, and other food access tools.

Our water can be in short supply during drought. Healthy farms use water-saving techniques, like trickle irrigation, cover crops, storage, catchment, and other techniques.

Our climate is changing, but smart soil management can boost organic matter, which can hold large amounts of carbon. Farmers need more training in carbon-smart practices.

Our communities are stronger when surrounded by healthy, prosperous farms selling food to residents and keeping dollars close to home.

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