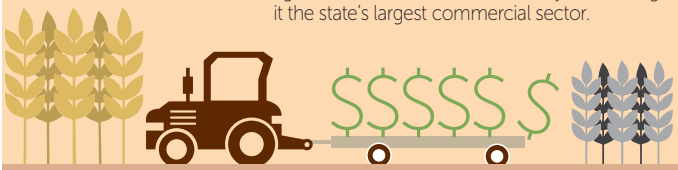


our **FARMS**
our **FUTURE**

9 reasons to support healthy, prosperous farms in the Chesapeake region

our **ECONOMY**

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.



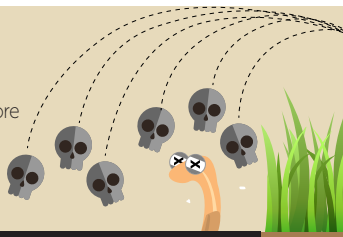
our **FARMERWORKFORCE**

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**

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**

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



our **FARMS** our **FUTURE**

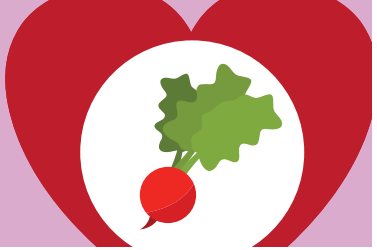
our **SECURITY**

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.



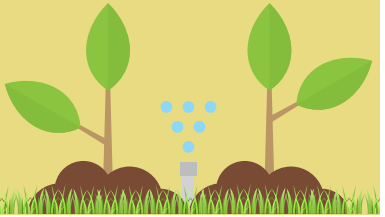
our **HEALTH**

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**

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**

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**

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



For more information: www.futureharvestcasa.org