



Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve: How to grow resilience

- Incentivize landowners to: farm regeneratively, reforest, and reduce lawn size (thinking of those large lots developed for houses) to increase carbon sequestration.
- Technical assistance and education for farmers and landowners regarding how to promote greater opportunities for healthy soils, forests, grasslands and meadows.
- Establish demonstration projects for carbon sequestering agriculture
- Grow more food and fiber for local consumption
- Provide for the accessory businesses that support local agriculture
- Encourage diversified farming, value added products
- Flood control; put in place stream buffers where they don't exist and enlarge existing buffers
- Establish programs to combat non-native invasive species and restore native habitats
- Protect the sole source aquifer, Potomac and Monocacy Rivers, and other water resources through wise land use plans and implementation and stream corridor revitalization
- Provide for educations for well/septic users to ensure best practices in maintaining systems
- Incentivize solar on rooftops; farms often have large barns and storage sheds
- Incentivize solar on the industrial properties such as the Dickerson Power Plant and the acreage under the high power lines
- Make it easier for locally grown food to connect to consumers, whether households, schools, commercial businesses like markets & restaurants – better distribution channels – establish food hub(s)
- Improve bus and train service in the reserve; MARC only runs as a commuter line. Recommend weekend trains, plus trains that run in and out of DC on more than just commuter schedule on weekdays.

- Include regenerative agriculture education in the schools, along with other resilience education
- Encourage broader knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Ag Reserve; build support

trends you've been documenting about changes the reserve has experienced due to changing weather patterns

- difficulty getting in to harvest hay, fewer cuts of hay because of drought to flood conditions , lower quality hay
- Orchards suffering fruit scald from sun and tree loss from high wind events in summer
- Poultry and livestock producers are faced with greater instance of bacterial disease
- Invasive insects
- Greater instances of fungal outbreaks
- Invasive plant species
- Farm worker health in heat/humidity conditions
- Loss of bird, insect and other species