

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agenda
September 21, 2021

1. Call the Meeting to Order-Introductions:
2. Approval of the July 20, 2021, AAC meeting minutes.
3. COVID-19 Update:

The Agricultural Activities Center is open for agricultural agency employees. The public can visit the Agricultural Activities Center by appointment. The doors will remain locked, and staff will greet you at the door for your appointment etc. To enter the building everyone must provide proof of COVID-19 compliance.

72.9 % of the County's population have received one dose of the vaccine and 66.6% are fully vaccinated.

[Data - COVID-19 Information Portal - Montgomery County, Maryland](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/Data-COVID-19-Information-Portal-Montgomery-County-Maryland)
(montgomerycountymd.gov)

4. Proposed Acquisition by County Parks of the Broad Run Creek Farm II LLC. *Please see attached correspondence from the Office of Agriculture.*
5. Update on the MCDOT staff report for the Gravel Portion of River Road. *Please see the attached correspondence from the MCDOT staff.*
6. Update on the progress for Expanded Farm to Food Bank Program. *Please see the attached correspondence from the Manna Food Center*
7. 2021 MD/ VA Agricultural Marketing Professionals conference. *Please see the attached program for the conference in both Montgomery and Howard Counties.*
8. The Department of Environmental Protection Legislative Proposals-

Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems-*County residents that live in areas without public water and sewer were mailed the DEP post card to expand awareness to extend the life of their septic systems by pumping out their septic tanks. The proposed legislation has still not been introduced. The enforcement and penalties provision on lines 158-170 will be deleted entirely as stated by the DEP Director "We think we can make significant progress without that provision."*

Introduction of Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability-Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards – Amendments to Chapter 18 Environmental Sustainability. There was a public hearing on July 20, 2021, and several agricultural organizations provided letters outlining that all existing and new agricultural buildings should be exempt from this Bill 16-21.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/OnDemand/testimony/20210720/item5.html>

The Director of DEP provided OAG with a list of equestrian facilities in the County with buildings 25,000 square feet in size or larger to assess the energy being used for lighting, heating, and air conditioning, etc.

Electric Lawn Care – The DEP has now proposed a more limited bill that will prohibit the use and sale of gasoline leaf blowers. The broader Electric Lawn Care bill will be delayed.

9. **MD Farm Bureau and MCFB Farmside Chats:**

Food Resiliency - Tuesday, June 8th at 9:30 AM - Butler's Orchard

Livestock Processing & Grain Farming - Thursday, July 1st at 9:30 AM - Seneca Ayr

Deer Damage - Thursday, August 5th at 7 PM - Jamison Farm

Forest Banking - Wednesday, September 8th at 9:30 AM - Willard Shop

Ag Reserve Solar - Wednesday, October 6th at 9 AM - Rockhill Orchard

10. The County Council approved the Subdivision Regulation Amendment 21-01. New commercial buildings are now exempt from the subdivision process when the buildings are used for agritourism, on-site farm markets and farm alcohol production.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 21, 2021

MD/VA AMPs conference-September 28-October 1, 2021

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- October 5, 2021

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-October 8, 2021

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-October 12, 2021