

AFBF 2021 Ag Innovation Challenge Semi-Finalists Announced

Baltimore's Own Farmer Chippy is Amongst the 10 Semi-Finalists

Ten startup businesses were selected by Farm Bureau and the Farm Credit Rural Investment and Innovation Workgroup who will compete at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2021 as semi-finalists. These ten businesses were announced on October 5, 2020 and awarded \$7,500 each. The 10 semi-finalist teams will compete virtually at the AFBF Convention on Friday, January 8, 2021 to advance to the final round where the four finalist teams will receive an additional \$7,500 for a total of \$15,000. The final four teams will compete virtually in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 to win:

- Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year, for a total of \$50,000
- People's Choice Award, for a total of \$20,000

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from [Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business](#) faculty, and network with representatives from the Agriculture Department's [Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business](#)

Included in the top 10 semi-finalists is the team lead by our own Richard "Farmer Chippy" Francis with AgriHoodBaltimore. AgriHoodBaltimore is a thriving Marketplace, Community Shared Agriculture and Urban Farmer Training Resource Institute with a focus on developing the next generation of Junior Urban Farmers.

"Today we grow food, flowers and herbs of various varieties for our community and local Farmers Markets. Our workforce includes 250 elementary school children from 5 neighboring schools, 33 teachers, 39 parents, 6 delegates, 2 neighborhood associations and an AWESOME State Senator (Antonio Hayes)..... all on a mission to grow 250,000 pounds of food. We have designed and ready to build our outdoor "URBAN SEEDS KITCHEN" with Morgan State University. We are in a Kale Study with University of District of Columbia. We are a Compost Partner with Baltimore Office of Sustainability - "Food Matters Initiative". We are members of the Baltimore Farm Alliance - Policy and Advocacy Committee and the Baltimore City Delegate for Maryland Farm Bureau. Recently, elected Co-Chair of the NAACP Maryland - Environmental and Climate Justice committee" -Chippy Francis

To learn more about the good things happening right here at AgriHoodBaltimore, use the following links to connect: [Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Video pitch](#)

For more information on the 2021 Ag Innovation Challenge, please visit the [AFBF Facebook page](#).