



January 2021

We are off to a busy start in 2021! In the month of January we expect to close three loans totaling \$71,750, by far our biggest single month since we began lending exactly two years ago.

Please take a few moments to read about our activities below. We are grateful for the interest. As you can see, there are a growing number of opportunities to help us build a resilient local food economy through patient capital.

Please Support Our Work

New SOIL Loan: Tonoloway Farm

[Tonoloway Farm](#), located in Highland County, uses permaculture principles to produce forest foods, including maple, walnut and hickory syrups, as well as mushrooms and nuts. The farm is owned and operated by Lauren and Cristophe Herb. They have received a 0% SOIL Loan to help them finish building an on-farm workshop that will enable them to significantly expand production.



Black Farmer Equity Fund

Thanks in large part to a grant from the [PATH Foundation](#) in Warrenton, Foodshed Capital is launching a pilot program for a Black Farmer Equity Fund. This fund is intended to deepen our commitment to providing financial resources to farmers of color in the many years to come. The program is being launched in partnership with [Africulture](#), [4P Foods](#) and [Local Food Hub](#), with many more partnerships in the works. If you have the capacity to make a major gift toward this effort, please contact Michael Reilly at michael@foodcap.org.

Expanding Regenerative Agriculture Through Patient Capital

We are working in partnership with the [Savory Institute's Central Virginia hub \(Robinia\)](#) to accelerate the adoption of holistic grazing practices in the region. Savory uses an outcome-based framework called [Ecological Outcome Verification \(EOV\)](#) framework, which is a practical and scalable soil and landscape assessment methodology that tracks outcomes in biodiversity, soil health, and ecosystem function (water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow and community dynamics). The need for catalytic and patient capital is critical in this process, and Foodshed Capital is building capacity to do this work. If you have interest in making a major gift toward this effort, or providing other types of support, please contact Michael Reilly at michael@foodcap.org.

Partnering with Agrarian Trust

Foodshed Capital is partnering with [Agrarian Trust](#) to help execute their [Agrarian Commons](#) initiative across the region. The Agrarian Commons is an innovative and transformative land-holding model committed to shaping a just, resilient, healthy food system and farm economy for the communities it serves. The Agrarian Commons hold land in community-centered entities that are 501(c)(2) subsidiaries of the national 501(c)(3) Agrarian Trust. All decision making within an Agrarian Commons takes place in the local 501(c)(2) governance structure. These Agrarian Commons own assets and land to convey affordable and equitable leases for the purpose of chemical-free, regenerative, and ecologically sustainable diversified food production for community benefit. Each Agrarian Commons is supported in various ways by the national 501(c)(3) Agrarian Trust.

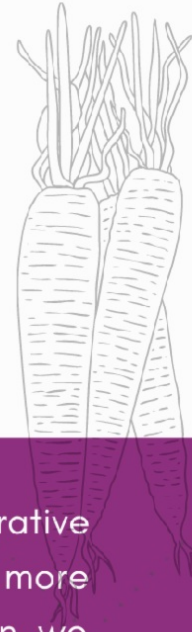
Foodshed Capital's role will be to provide debt financing for land acquisition. If you are interested in supporting this work, particularly foundations, please contact Michael Reilly at michael@foodcap.org.

Please Support Our Work

JOIN US FOR

Systemic Change in the Food System

WITH MICHAEL REILLY OF VIRGINIA FOODSHED CAPITAL



To learn how partners of The Health Collaborative can work together to create a healthier and more just local food system in the Dan River Region, we will discuss issues of food access, health, and equity through a systems lens.



Friday, February 12th
10 - 11 am via Zoom

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/3o6LztI>

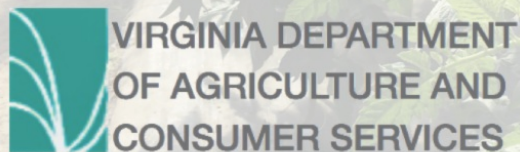
to receive the Zoom link by email.



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Maggie Richardson at (434-766-6761 x7745 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Click on the image above to register for the Systemic Change in the Food System Zoom forum.

Virginia Food Access Investment Fund



The inaugural grant round for the [Virginia Food Access Investment Fund \(VFAIF\)](#) is now open and will close on April 30, 2021. VFAIF is a statewide program that focuses on equity and justice in local food systems by investing in new or expanding food retailers that address food access issues in the Commonwealth. VFAIF offers grants and loans to fund the business development, construction, rehabilitation, equipment upgrades and expansion of grocery stores, small food retailers, and innovative food retail projects in historically marginalized communities.

Back on January 12, Foodshed Capital partnered with [Virginia Community Capital](#) to host a webinar about VFAIF as part of our monthly series on Food System Financing in Virginia. We hosted several members of VDACS. If you missed the webinar, you can catch a recording [HERE](#).

Speaking of our [Food System Financing series](#), we held our last one (at least for now) on January 21 with a thoroughly informative discussion by Dr. Karen Jackson from from [Katalyst Innovative Consulting](#), and Emily Sloss from [Self-Help Credit Union](#).

For a recording of the webinar click [HERE](#).



WEBINAR

Principles to Produce
Nutrient Dense Food

with

Dan Kittredge

How to grow more flavorful,
aromatic, nutritious, pest and
disease resistant harvests.

FEB. 2ND • 12-1:30 PM

Join the [Virginia Association for Biological Farming](#) and Dan Kittredge from [Bionutrient Food Association](#) for a webinar on **February 2 from noon-1:30pm**. The workshop will cover a number of critical environmental conditions and management practices necessary for the production of these more flavorful, aromatic, nutritious, pest and disease resistant harvests. The foundational paradigm of how plants have evolved to operate in relation to their environments will be covered, along with practical suggestions having to do with seed quality, mineralization, minimal soil disturbance, inoculation, in season monitoring, integrating cover crops, managing for soil aeration and hydration, and intention.

[Click here to find out more and register](#)

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE FORUM

Thursday, Feb. 4

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Watch at your convenience the following two realistic and engaging films:

Kiss The Ground

kissthegroundmovie.com

Living Soil

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntJouJhLM48

Then join us for a virtual conversation about how Virginia agriculture can move forward:

- what works to increase yield and profit to strengthen rural economies
- what practices and technologies are new
- what obstacles and opportunities exist
- how elected officials can help

REGISTER for this free event at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cce-va-regenerative-agriculture-forum-tickets-136960722207>

EMAIL questions for panelists to:
richmondcl.cce@gmail.com



JANET AARDEMA & DAN GAGNON

Co-Owners/Co-Operators,
Broadfork Farm



MICHAEL CARTER JR. — Carter Farms
Small Farm Resource Center Coordinator,
Virginia State University



GREGORY EVANYLO, PhD

Professor, School of Plant and
Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech



JOHN FIKE, PhD

Professor and Forage Extension Specialist,
Virginia Tech



CHRIS LAWRENCE

State Cropland Agronomist,
USDA NRCS



DUSTIN MADISON — Engel Family Farms
and White Creek Farm Systems,
Farm and Conservation Planner/Manager



CONGRESSWOMAN ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

U.S. House of Representatives,
Virginia's 7th District



ELLI SPARKS — Abundance Farm

Director of Field Development,
Citizens' Climate Education



DELEGATE RODNEY WILLETT

Virginia House of Delegates,
73rd District



BRENT WILLS — Bramble Hollow Farm

Agroecology Consultant
President, VABF

Be sure to tune in to this free forum on regenerative agriculture on February 4, with an amazing line-up of speakers, including Foodshed Capital board member Michael Carter Jr.

[Link To Register](#)

Soon-To-Be Next Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh who has been nominated to serve as the next Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Upon her hopefully speedy confirmation, Dr. Bronaugh

will be the first African American female in the nation to serve in this capacity.

For the past two and a half years, Dr. Bronaugh has served as the 16th Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Prior to that position, Dr. Bronaugh served as the Executive Director of the Center of Agriculture Research, Engagement and Outreach (CAREO) at Virginia State University. She previously served as the Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), where she was appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, in July 2015.

Prior to being appointed to FSA, she served as the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University (VSU) for 5 years, where she led the strategic vision for the Extension and Research divisions and the academic departments. In her earlier career at VSU, she was the Associate Administrator of Cooperative Extension and a 4-H Youth Development Specialist, where she developed and delivered programs that addressed issues of bullying among youth. In spring 2019, she launched the Farmer Stress Task Force, organized in partnership with agricultural and health related agencies and organizations, to raise awareness and coordinate resources to address farmer stress and mental health challenges in Virginia.

Dr. Bronaugh has also been the driving force behind the recently enacted Virginia Food Access Investment Fund. We'll miss you in Virginia but are grateful for the work you'll be doing on behalf of farmers at the national level.



If you missed our December 8 webinar about our expanded financing opportunities for farmers and food entrepreneurs, [you can find a link to the video recording here.](#)

When day comes we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it

— Amanda Gorman (1/20/2021)

FoodCap.org
(434) 409-0053 | info@foodcap.org



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