



Financing Our Foodshed

May 2019

In a recent [article](#), author David Korten stated that, "Soil, not money, is the source of wealth, and our economic system needs to reflect that." We couldn't agree more!" It's what propels our mission to provide financial stewardship to small-scale regenerative food farms through our SOIL revolving loan fund.

As we enter our second year, Slow Money Central Virginia is grateful to all our supporters, including individual donors as well as several community and private foundations. We're grateful to farmers who have trusted us with a new and different way to support their financial needs. And we're grateful to everyone else who has supported us by helping spread our message, including two recent awesome blog posts by [Virginia Impact Investing Forum](#) and [Alexis Advisors](#) in Richmond. Thank you!

If you have not done so already, please help us to continue serving the growing financial needs of our local small-scale food producers and...

Become A Nurture Capitalist Today!

This is a grassroots effort! We hope as many people as possible will support our mission. **Any size charitable contribution** you can make to our SOIL revolving loan fund goes a long way toward helping us help the local foodshed with its financial needs.

Become A Nurture Capitalist Today!

Slow Money in Tidewater

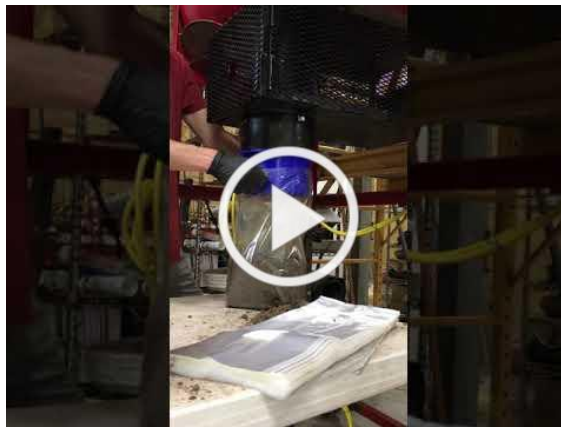
While our roots will always be in Central Virginia, we realized from the very beginning that there is an interest in and a need for our SOIL fund throughout the great Commonwealth of Virginia. Earlier in May we officially brought Slow Money to the Tidewater region with a kick-off dinner at [The Butcher's Son Chophouse](#) in Virginia Beach. We're excited about the energy and enthusiasm that came out of this first meeting. If you live in the Tidewater region or have connections there, please spread the word about Slow Money!



Slow Money kick-off in Virginia Beach at The Butcher's Son on May 1, 2019

Nurture Capital At Work

Anyone who runs a business of any size or any kind knows how important it is to be efficient with your resources. Farms are certainly no different, and we would argue that efficiency is more important at those businesses producing our healthiest food -with all the challenges it entails - than any other type of business. That's why we're so excited to see Nurture Capital at work helping improve efficiency. [Free Union Grass Farm](#) reports outstanding improvements in their chicken egg business from the new roll-out nest boxes they purchased with their Slow Money loan. [Little Hat Creek Farm](#) just placed the order for new bakery equipment, which we'll be able to show you real soon. And [Sharondale Farm](#) continues to benefit from new equipment they purchased with their Slow Money loan, such as the automatic mushroom substrate bagger shown in the video below.



Money Mornings With Alexis Advisors

Money Mornings is a monthly breakfast program hosted by Roberta Keller with [Alexis Advisors](#). It is designed to provide our community with free education and a welcoming atmosphere to open the money conversation and learn how to live, spend, and invest intentionally. Join the conversation on Tuesday June 11, from 8-9am, at Ellwood Thompson's Beet Cafe in Richmond when Roberta will be talking with Slow Money Central Virginia co-founder Hunter Hopcroft.



[Money Mornings Info for June 11](#)

Always Accepting Farmer Loan Applications!

The mission of Slow Money Central Virginia is to support the financial needs of farmers and food entrepreneurs in our region. Our inaugural program called **SOIL (Slow Opportunities for Investing Locally)** is a 0% revolving loan program. We accept applications on a rolling basis. We can't stress enough that no request is too small, as we want to be a friendly source of capital to help farm businesses grow in a way that's best for them.

[Slow Money Borrower Information Form](#)



Buy Fresh Buy Local

The 2019-2020 Buy Fresh Buy Local guides were recently released by the [Piedmont Environmental Council](#) for the Charlottesville, Northern Piedmont, and Loudoun areas. Slow Money Central Virginia is grateful to be featured in the [Charlottesville area addition](#). There are seven Buy Fresh Buy Local chapters throughout Virginia. It is an invaluable service for our local foodshed.



[Click on this link to find a Buy Fresh Buy Local guide for your region.](#)

Sign Up for Peer-to-Peer Opportunities

In the past several months we have presented a few opportunities for peer-to-peer loans in the local foodshed. We use this strategy for those loan requests that are too large for our current SOIL fund reserves, or for requests from off-farm food businesses. Due to the growing number of these opportunities we are seeing, and expect to see in the future, we are trying to better systematize our approach. If you are interested in being contacted about peer-to-peer lending opportunities as they arise, please fill out the [Lender Information Form](#) on our website so we can curate the opportunities according to your interest.

[Peer-To-Peer Lender Information Form](#)



Other Events & Opportunities

Women in Food at Real Local RVA June Meeting



June 3, 2019
10:30am-11:45am
St. Stephen's Church, Richmond

The June [Real Local RVA](#) meeting features a panel of RVA women discussing their very different day to day responsibilities, the ups and downs of working in local food/drink, and what it's like to be a part of Richmond's food and beverage scene. Panelists include Sally Schwitters of [Tricycle Urban Ag](#), Kelli Lemon of [Urban Hang Suite](#), Shola Walker of [Mahogany Sweets](#), and Kate Lee of [Hardywood Craft Brewery](#).

[Event Details](#)

VSU/USDA Field Day

June 12, 2019
8am-Noon
Carver Center, Rapidan, VA



VSU Small Farm Outreach Program will host this exciting opportunity for farmers to see a variety of crop production and field management practices, learn more about research, and connect with experts and agriculture leaders in Virginia. USDA representatives will be on hand to talk about their agency resources that are available to help small and beginning farmers.

[Click here for registration](#)

Buy Fresh Buy Local Event in Virginia Beach

June 7, 2019
12:30pm
New Earth Farm

Join [Buy Fresh Buy Local Hampton Roads](#) at [New Earth Farm](#) for a discussion of ethical food, enlightened governance, conscious consumerism, and local food systems. The event will



feature a talk with Joel Salatin from [Polyface Farm](#).

[Click here for event details](#)

Save The Dates:

It's never too early to plan and you don't want to miss these two great annual conferences:

[Virginia Farmers Market Association](#)
[November 13-15, 2019](#)
[Staunton, VA](#)

[Virginia Association for Biological Farming](#)
[January 11-13, 2020](#)
[Roanoke, VA](#)

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