



FOODSHED CAPITAL

Funding Local Food in Virginia

November 2019

Our SOIL Loan Fund portfolio is now up to 16 loans totaling more than \$104,000! You can read about our two latest loans below. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and made our work possible in the past year.

Please help us keep the momentum going into 2020!

All current donations are being matched two-for-one by one of our generous financial supporters. This will help guarantee at least \$30,000 in much needed funds to carry our work forward and accommodate the needs of our growing number of loan applicants.

Please consider donating to our SOIL Fund as soon as possible to help us maximize the match.

This is a grassroots effort, whether you can give 25\$ or make a major gift, we are so greatly appreciative. Please make your contribution by December 1, 2019. Thank you.

[**Donate Here!**](#)

New Loan: Turnip The Beets Farm

[Turnip The Beets Farm](#) is run by Beverly and Shane Spaninger on their 8-acre property in Nelson County where they grow vegetables and flowers using ecologically sustainable practices. They started the farm in 2013, after Beverly had gained experience working on several farms during and after college. They sell their products at the Nelson County Farmers Market in Nellysford, the Lynchburg Community Market, and the Amherst Farmers Market. With their 0% SOIL loan from our Central Virginia fund they will purchase bulk amounts of ground cloth as a reusable weed barrier in order to help them better farm organically. The fabric will save them substantial

time weeding and reduce the environmental impact of using disposable plastic every year.



The Spaninger Family from Turnip The Beets Farm

New Loan: Wild Rose Orchard

Wild Rose Orchard, run by Trevor and Jenna Piersol, is a perennial fruit farm using beyond organic practices. It's located near the town of Mount Sidney in Augusta County and was first established in November 2017. It is still under development as Trevor and Jenna continue planting fruit trees and berry bushes on their 12.5 acre property using the principles of permaculture design. They both have extensive backgrounds in farming, having met as fellows at the Allegheny Mountain Institute. With their 0% SOIL Loan from our Shenandoah Valley fund they are building a permanent 8-foot tall woven-wire deer fence around the farm's entire production area. In addition to the SOIL Loan, the project is being completed with the help of a grant they received through the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

Please see our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [Instagram account](#) for ongoing updates on all our projects.



Jenna and Trevor Piersol with their son Afton at Wild Rose Orchard

Nurture Capital At Work

Nurture Capital continues to do its job in our local foodshed. We are especially excited about the recent progress from one of our borrowers. Muhammad Family Farm in Southampton County received a SOIL loan to help them open a Community Farmers Market in Boykins in late October. It's a place where local citizens can buy and sell local healthy food, given that the nearest grocery store is more than 30 minutes away. Check out a few of the pictures from the market.

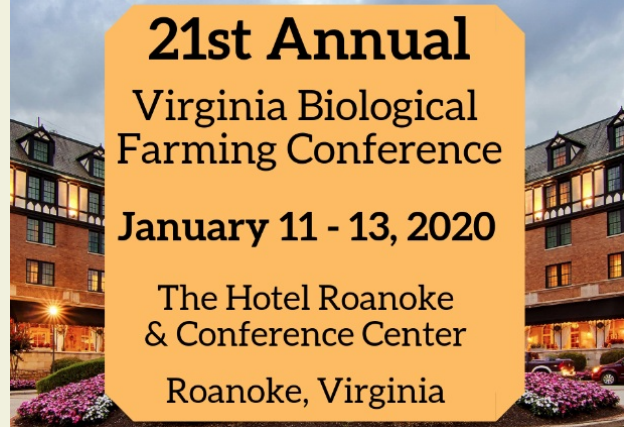


Virginia Biological Farming Conference

[Virginia Association for Biological Farming](#) invites you its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Roanoke. The Conference brings

together farmers, gardeners, eaters, educators and advocates of sustainable agriculture. Virginia Foodshed Capital will lead a pre-conference workshop on The Business of Farming. Sign up now!

[Event Details](#)



Welcome to our New Fellow

India Brahm recently joined Virginia Foodshed Capital as a fellow. India is a 2019 graduate of UVA with a degree in Global Sustainability and Social Entrepreneurship. Since 2016 she's also been a Senior Associate at the Charlottesville Angel Network (CAN), and she works at CAN's sister organization, the Charlottesville Business Innovation Council (CBIC). India, who is fluent in Spanish, also worked in Northern Ecuador this past summer, where among other things, she helped negotiate the purchase of equipment for a women's plantain flour cooperative.



Always Accepting Farmer Loan Applications!

The mission of Virginia Foodshed Capital is to support the financial needs of farmers and food enterprises in our region. Our signature grassroots program called **SOIL** is a 0% revolving loan program for amounts up to \$10,000. We are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis.



[Virginia Foodshed Capital Borrower Information Form](#)

Va. Farmers Market Association Conference


On November 14, Virginia Foodshed Capital hosted a "Business Essentials" panel for attendees at VAFMA's 7th annual conference in Staunton. The panel covered topics such as marketing, cash flow analysis and start-up advice. Pictured with Michael Reilly from VFC is Kim Hutchinson, ED of VAFMA, Andrew Bayker from [Althea Bread](#), and Erica Hellen from [Free Union Grass Farm](#).



Other Events & Opportunities

Virginia Farm-to-Table Conference

December 5-6, 2019
Weyers Cave, VA




 **Save the Date!**

Servant Leadership and Courageous Conversations
December 5 and 6, 2019
Blue Ridge Community College
Weyers Cave, VA

Speakers and instructors will include: Elnian Gilbert of ZingTrain, Bob Muth of Muth Family Farm, Amani Olugbala of Soul Fire Farm, and others.

Don't forget to submit a nomination for the 2019 Carl Luebben Soil Health and Water Quality Award!
For more information, email Kathy Holm at kathy.holm@va.usda.gov.

Conference brought to you by VCE, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Blue Ridge Community College.
For more information, call Eric Bendfeldt at ebendfel@vt.edu or call 540/232-6006.

Always a vibrant and productive event, this year's Farm To Table conference is entitled, "Servant Leadership and Courageous Conversations." The event will be held at Blue Ridge Community College.

[Event Details](#)

FoodCap.org

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