



May 2021

We made our first loan in Maryland this month to Juniper's Garden, which we hope you will take a few moments to read about below.

Most folks are wondering how in the world it is already Memorial Day weekend, but it is indeed. We hope it is a safe, healthy, and peaceful one for all.

We are grateful to all those who support our work for the benefit of our local food system. Let's continue to grow together during this season of abundance!

Please consider a monthly donation... whether you can give \$10 a month, \$50, \$100 or more, it will go a long way in helping us create the stability we need to pursue our work.

Please Support Our Work

New Loan: Juniper's Garden



Juniper's Garden is a start-up veggie, herb, and meat-bird farmstead located in Brandywine, Maryland. Co-owners Blain Snipstal and Samaria King launched Juniper's Garden in 2019 as an intensive market garden, with the intention of creating a space for the intersection of herbalism (herbal education and medicine making), community education and wellness, and food production. Together, Blain and Samaria have more than 15 years experience in agriculture. Blain is founder, designer and lead builder for [Earth-Bound Building](#), a collective of skilled builders, crafts-people and farmers founded in 2014. Samaria joined the DC nonprofit [Dreaming Out Loud](#) in 2018 to help develop and manage the Farm at Kelly Miller. She is also a graduate of [Future Harvest's Beginner Farmer Training Program](#).

Foodshed Capital's loan through our Black Farmer Equity Fund will go toward various equipment and infrastructure needs that are crucial to the growth of Juniper's Garden. This is our first loan in Maryland and we couldn't be more excited than to support Blain and Samaria on their journey.



Foodshed Capital's Impact through May 2021*

- 48 loans made to farms/food businesses
- \$515,500 in total value of loans made
- 85% of loans made to farms owned or operated in part by women or people of color



Nurture Capital In Progress...

Our farm partners continue to be busy with projects funded by Foodshed Capital loans. Check out a few below.



New pole barn for poultry processing at [Verdant Acres Farm](#) in Rockbridge County.



New storage shed at [Gillespie's County Line Farm](#) in Fluvanna/Louisa counties.

Black Farmer Equity Fund

We were so encouraged to learn back in March that the American Rescue Plan would provide \$4 billion in debt relief to minority farmers. We were equally discouraged to hear about the pushback this plan is receiving from large banks. This goes to show you how many hurdles remain in the way of repairing and revoking institutional injustice.

It is just one reason why Foodshed Capital continues to do everything we can to support farmers of color. We are forging ahead with development of 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.

Please Support Our Work

Future Harvest Partnership

BEGINNER FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM

A FREE, FULL-YEAR PROGRAM WITH 3 LEVELS FOR ENTRY-LEVEL TO ADVANCED



LEARN | APPLY | CONNECT

We are excited to be partnering with Future Harvest in Maryland on the next phase of their Beginning Farmer Training Program. Since 2016, Future Harvest's BFTP has graduated more than 300 farmers in the Chesapeake region. With the aid of a USDA Beginner Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, Future Harvest will launch the next version of their program later in 2021 with a deeper focus on supporting socially disadvantaged farmers, providing targeted support in these key areas: business and financial training, cooperative farming, land, and capital access. Foodshed Capital is grateful to be among a group of partners including: [Africulture](#), [OurSpace World](#), [Agrarian Trust](#), and [Farm Alliance of Baltimore](#), and [University of Maryland Eastern Shore Small Farm Program](#).

INVESTMENT CONNECTION

Community Development Investment & Lending Partnership

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF RICHMOND
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Investment Connection is a program that introduces public and private funders in the regions served by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to proposals from community-based organizations and small businesses that benefit low- and moderate-income, distressed and underserved communities.

Foodshed Capital was honored to be chosen one of four finalists for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Investment Connection Virtual Pitch on May 20. We presented to a group of more than 30 bankers, investors, and philanthropists on our Black Farmer Equity Fund. This Investment Connection program was launched a few years ago to help connect Community Reinvestment Act-eligible projects with potential funding. We have not received word yet if our

presentation earned us any funding interest, but we sure hope so, for the benefit of Black Farmers in the region. You can learn more about the [Investment Connection program](#) here, and find a recording of the May 20 event on the [Richmond Fed Facebook page](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

"We all come into this world with a set of instructions. These instructions guide us toward our highest purpose. They lead us to the essential truths that live deep within us. This truth is encoded in our DNA. It is embedded in our genetic memory. It vibrates within us on a cellular level. Every element of life carries this vibration. Every living being has its own vibrational tone. When these tones are combined, they form the voice of creation. If we learn to listen closely, we can begin to hear that voice and allow it to guide our steps through life. Then we can begin to attune our daily actions with our higher purpose and become who we were meant to be."
-Sherri Mitchell

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