



## Funding Local Food In Virginia



*August 2020*

We intentionally skipped our newsletter last month, in case any of you hadn't notice. If you hadn't, no offense taken.

Sometimes you just need a break from things, while making sure those breaks don't interfere with the big picture. We cannot afford to take breaks from the big picture. The sense of urgency grows everyday, with record-breaking wildfires raging out West, the steady march of tropical storms through the Atlantic basin, another senseless shooting of a Black person by the police, and of course the relentless pandemic and its lessons from which we've failed to learn, such as folks going back to their blind faith in a dysfunctional global food system.

All these things are connected to each other, and to the work we do here at Foodshed Capital, because they demand a revolution in the way we live. Slow Money founder Woody Tasch articulates this revolution as eloquently as always in his new book, which you can read more about below. Social entrepreneur Jacqueline Novogratz also makes a cogent case in her book, [\*Manifesto For A Moral Revolution: Practices to Build A Better World\*](#). She states: "Too many who yearn to make a difference become paralyzed by the fear of leaping without having worked out every detail. Yet the decision we face is not to chart the perfect way forward; it is simply to embark on a journey. Once we've taken a step forward, the work will teach us where to take a second step, and then a third, and so on. Purpose does not reveal itself to those sitting safely at the starting block. In other words, you don't plan your way into finding your purpose. You live into it."

Despite skipping that July newsletter, we're taking many steps forward at Foodshed Capital, including an exciting new partnership in Pennsylvania which you can read about below. Also please take time to read about our latest loan to Sylvanaqua Farms. Farmer Chris Newman is leading his own Moral Revolution [and has cultivated a](#)

[nationwide interest in his ideas and philosophies.](#)

Thank you all for your support. See you next month. That's a promise.

Michael Reilly  
Co-founder & Executive Director

**Please Donate To Our Soil Fund!**


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## **New Loan: Sylvanaqua Farms**

[Sylvanaqua Farms](#) is located in the town of Montross, on Virginia's Northern Neck. It is operated by Chris Newman and his wife Annie, along with a capable and growing staff. Chris and Annie began farming in 2013 in Albemarle County and moved to their current location in 2018. The farm produces pastured chicken for meat and eggs, as well as forest-raised pork and is dedicated to the advancement of collective land ownership and equity for BIPOC farmers. They envision creating an economically sustainable agricultural program that protects land and water, allows people of color and other historically marginalized communities to express themselves on the landscape, and feeds the population across the Chesapeake Bay region.

With its 0% SOIL Loan, Sylvanaqua will be working toward building an economically sustainable and vertically integrated agricultural enterprise. Funds will go toward land acquisition and a planned community for farmers working for the enterprise.

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





*The Newman Family at Sylvanaqua Farms*

**Total SOIL Loans Made: 25**  
**Total Value of Loans: \$190,000**

*\* since January 2019*

# **Pennsylvania Farm Vitality Planning Grant Program**





Foodshed Capital is excited to announce it has been selected to provide services in Pennsylvania, its first venture beyond the Virginia border. We are teaming up with [Kitchen Table Consultants](#), from Bala Cynwyd, to assist farmers participating in a statewide business training program. The program is called the [Farm Vitality Planning Grant](#) and is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). Its purpose is to enhance the long-term vitality of Pennsylvania's farms through sound business planning, efficient transitions of farm ownership, strategic farm expansion, diversification of agricultural production, and development of financial and technical expertise for farmers.

Because the farmers don't receive the grant funding until after they've completed the training, it can be an impediment to participation. SO Foodshed Capital is providing bridge loans to help make it easier on the participants' cash flow. We believe this project is perfectly aligned with our mission to not only provide Nurture Capital to farms, but to support them with technical assistance and training on their path toward long term profitability.

[You can read the full press release here.](#)

## Free Webinar Series

from Virginia Community Capital & Virginia Foodshed Capital

# Food System Financing in Virginia

August 11  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November 17  
December 15

Hear from food system funders, technical assistance providers, incentive programs, and organizations who have received financial resources.



How do we get money to the people who need it to build a healthy, equitable, regenerative local food system that is accessible to everyone? That is just one of many questions we are probing as part of a free webinar series in partnership with Virginia Community Capital called "Food System Financing in Virginia. The series will be held monthly through the end of the year and we kicked it off with two sessions in August. Featured guests across the first two sessions included [Marland Buckner from MB2 Solutions](#), Tom McDougall, [founder of 4P Foods](#), Pamela Hess, executive director at [Arcadia](#) (Tom and Pam also representing [MAFRAC](#)), Kate Houck from [The Underground Kitchen](#), Michael Carter, Jr. from [Carter Farms](#) and the [Small Farm Outreach Program](#), and Eric Bendfeldt from the [Center for Foods Systems and Community Transformation](#). At the end of the series we hope to compile the lessons learned into roadmap for a more resilient, robust and equitable food system in Virginia.

[Please join us for the next webinar in September. Click here to find out more.](#)

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## Accepting Farmer Loan Applications

As we have always done, we continue to accept loan applications for our signature grassroots program called **SOIL**, a 0% revolving loan program for amounts up to \$10,000. Applications are typically accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. However, due to high demand for financing, we may not be able to accommodate those who have immediate needs. Please consider how your project could be spread out over the longer term.

[Virginia Foodshed Capital Borrower Information Form](#)

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## New Woody Tasch Book



# AHA!

Fake Trillions, Real Billions,  
Beetcoin and the  
Great American Do-Over



"*Local* does not mean parochial or xenophobic. Neither does *small* mean inconsequential, nor *slow* meaning lacking in urgency." Slow Money founder Woody Tasch expounds on familiar themes with his hallmark poetic prose in his new book, *AHA: Fake Trillions, Real Billions, Beetcoin and the Great American Do-Over*. The book is being distributed free of charge in installments. You can find the first three installment here: [Installment One](#), [Installment Two](#), [Installment Three](#). If you want to receive future installments be sure to get on their mailing list at the [Slow Money website](#).

"How we treat the land, how we treat people - it's all the same. Those two things can't be teased apart. We can't heal agricultural woes, solve climate change, address the problematic treatment of the natural world if we can't at the same time address the injuries between human beings."  
-Mimi Casteel, Hope Well Wines

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