



December 2020

I've never been much of a celebrator on New Year's Eve. Ok, I'll concede I'm not much of a partier in general. But it's always seemed strange to me... the revelry we engage in when the calendar flips to a new year. Why is it any different than the start of any other month, or any other day, or any other hour? It makes me think of T.S. Eliot: *Time past and time future/What might have been and what has been/Point to one end, which is always present.*

Mindful presence reminds us to neither sentimentalize nor condemn our past; it also cleanses us of anxiety and apathy over the future. We need presence for the work ahead of us: To find a better way to care for our common home and make it once and for all equally hospitable to every heart that beats.

On behalf of our team at Foodshed Capital, I pledge our continued commitment to doing the important work ahead. As our second full year of operation concludes, we are thankful to have achieved nearly all the goals we set for the organization. We couldn't have done so without the tremendous support from so many folks.

Please take a moment to read about some of the things we have planned for 2021 and consider supporting our efforts if you haven't done so already. **We're focusing our fundraising efforts on a regenerative monthly giving program in the year ahead.**

Please consider supporting our operations in this way. 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. One-time major gifts are also very much welcomed.

Investors who want to support our work in other ways can please contact me directly at michael@foodcap.org.

Peace to all through the holiday season,

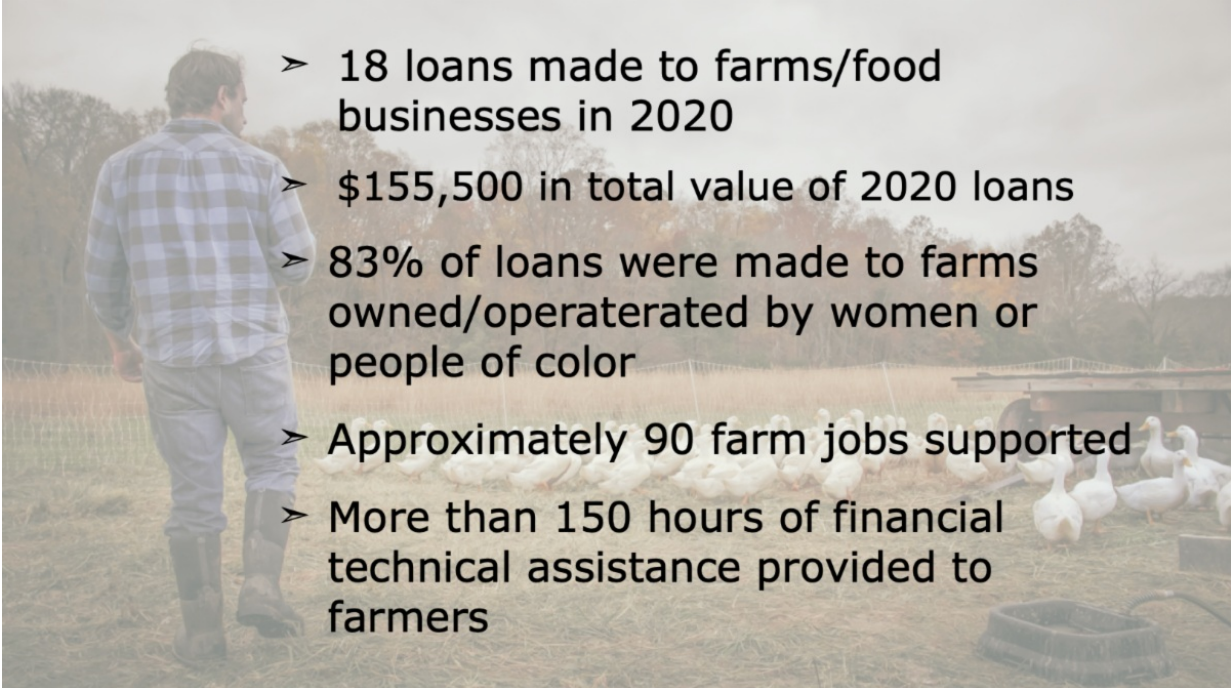
Michael Reilly
Co-founder/Executive Director

Please Support Our Work

In addition to supporting our 0% SOIL Loan and providing financial education to farmers, your contributions will help us in the year ahead on many exciting projects we're working on, including:

- Development of a Black farmer equity fund in partnership with mission-aligned funders and food advocacy organizations around the region;
- Advancement of our commitment to regenerative agriculture, helping foster positive ecological outcomes and financial upside for farmers, and assisting with farms interested in transitioning from conventional practices;
- Collaboration with partner organizations to assist farmers with land ownership;
- Expansion of the financial training, consultation, and assistance we provide to our borrowers, and prospective borrowers, to include whole farm management, with a focus on regenerative/conservation best practices and verified ecological outcomes.

Once again, we're grateful for the support we have received from so many of you throughout the first few years of our operation, particularly in this difficult and tumultuous year. With your help, here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished in 2020:



- 18 loans made to farms/food businesses in 2020
- \$155,500 in total value of 2020 loans
- 83% of loans were made to farms owned/operated by women or people of color
- Approximately 90 farm jobs supported
- More than 150 hours of financial technical assistance provided to farmers

For more details on the work we've done, and the work we have planned, please read our Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 by clicking on the image below.

[Please Support Our Work](#)





Expanded Financing Opportunities

December 8, 2020



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.](#)

Blueprint for Community Ownership, Empowerment, & Prosperity in the Chesapeake Foodshed

Please click on the image below to read through an insightful and impactful report from the Community Ownership, Empowerment & Prosperity (COEP) team at the [Chesapeake Foodshed Network](#). This was a multi-year project and that required immense dedication to the team. We'd like to give a shout-out to one of the team members in particular, Shantell Bingham, who serves on our Foodshed Capital board of directors.



BLUEPRINT FOR
COMMUNITY
OWNERSHIP,
EMPOWERMENT &
PROSPERITY
IN THE CHESAPEAKE
FOODSHED

FALL 2020

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.



Join us for our next two webinars that are part of our "Food System Financing" series in collaboration with [Virginia Community Capital](#). The series is exploring how we get money to the people who need it to build a healthy, equitable, regenerative local food economy that is accessible to everyone.

Join us on January 12 at noon when we will feature a discussion with members of [VDACS](#) on the [Virginia Food Access Investment Fund Program](#).

On January 21, our topic will be: *Redefining Food System Equity: Examining Innovation in Capital Access and Wealth Generation for People of Color*. The discussion will be led by Dr. Karen Jackson from [Katalyst Innovative Consulting](#), and Emily Sloss from [Self-Help Credit Union](#).

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

Foodshed Capital's first office space!

We are excited to announce that we have opened up Foodshed Capital's first official office at the new [Common House](#) in Richmond. It's located at 303 W. Broad Street. Come visit us in 2021... once we finally get COVID-19 behind us!



"All stakeholders in the food system must center agroecological and regenerative values over extractive production, and work through cooperative models of wealth building and subsistence inside and outside of capitalism."
— COEP Report

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