



Funding Local Food In Virginia



February 2020

Regenerative agriculture is a term that seems to be settling into the mainstream lexicon, which is mostly a positive thing. You certainly know it's going mainstream when you begin hearing it in TV commercials. The term was first used in the early 1980s by the [Rodale Institute](#) - under the tutelage of Robert Rodale, son of founder J.I. Rodale - but it didn't seem to gain much traction until more recent years. It was the cornerstone of a major report published in 2013 by the [UN Conference on Trade and Development](#), called "[Wake Up Before It's Too Late.](#)" This publication is even more relevant today.

Rodale picked the term back up again in force with [its own white paper in 2014](#). The paper uses Robert Rodale's original, more specific phrase - regenerative organic agriculture - to be absolutely clear about the types of practices it includes and doesn't include. The Rodale Institute remains today one of the world's leading advocates of regenerative organic agriculture.

Many of the farms we work with in Virginia are practicing regenerative agriculture, even if they don't necessarily call it that. One farm that does is the recipient of our latest SOIL Loan. Read about them below and watch for some exciting news soon about events we're planning for later this year to spread more awareness about the many extraordinary benefits of regenerative agriculture... for our food, our soil, our climate, and our future.

Thank you to everyone who supports our work so we can support the capital needs in our local foodshed... and help spread regenerative agriculture. Our demand for loans continues to accelerate as our work becomes more known in the farming community. Please help us continue to meet those needs with a donation of any size.

Thank you,

Please Donate To Our Soil Fund!

New Loan: Timshel Permaculture Farm

[Timshel Permaculture Farm](#) is a 300-acre regenerative livestock farm in Nelson County, operated by husband-and-wife team Daniel and Morgan Griffith. The farm, which is Certified Naturally Grown, has been in business since 2017 and now raises grass-fed and finished beef and lamb, forest and pasture-raised pork, pastured milk goats and pastured chicken for meat and eggs. The farm is also the site of [The Robinia Institute](#), a holistic management and ecological design training center, scheduled to become a hub for the Savory Institute in 2020. [The Savory Institute](#) is a worldwide nonprofit whose mission is the large-scale regeneration of the world's grasslands through Holistic Management to address the global issues of desertification, climate change, and food and water insecurity. The Institute promotes its work through accredited hubs throughout the world. Becoming a hub is a highly selective process that requires extensive training. There are only 48 hubs, or hub candidates, currently spread over six continents. There are 18 hubs or hub candidates in the US.

With its 0% SOIL Loan, Timshel will purchase fencing and livestock as part of a massive project to regenerate degraded land on their property through holistic planned grazing. We are excited to be working with Timshel and look forward to future collaborations together, as we work to advocate for regenerative agriculture throughout Virginia.

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



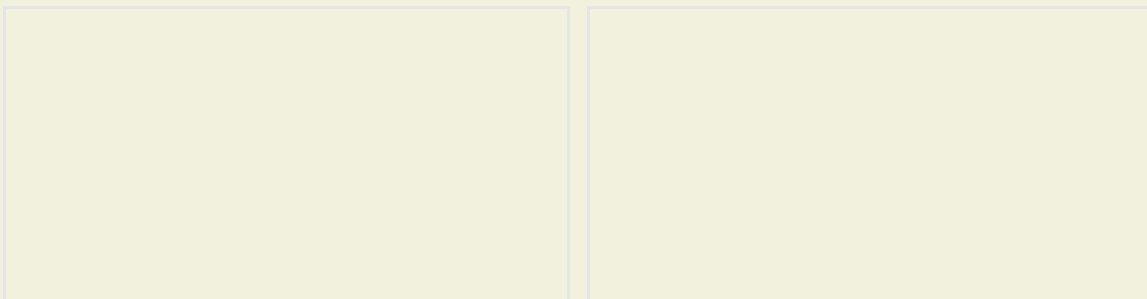
Daniel and Morgan Griffith from Timshel Permaculture, with their children Tecumseh and Elowyn

Total SOIL Loans Made: 19
Total Value of Loans: \$134,000

** since January 2019*

Nurture Capital At Work

Nurture Capital continues to do its job in our local foodshed. Trevor and Jenna Piersol from [Wild Rose Orchard](#) in Augusta County recently installed an 8-foot tall woven-wire deer fence around the farm's entire production area. The project was funded with a SOIL Loan they received in November 2019, in collaboration with a grant they also received from the state Soil and Water Conservation District.





Great Vibes in Staunton



A few dozen farmers and local food advocates gathered with us in Staunton on February 20th. It was a chance for us to get to know more folks in and around the Shenandoah Valley, talk about the work we've been doing there, and build on the energy from so many people working hard to support local food. And lots of energy there was throughout the evening! Thanks to all who came out and to [Lundch Food](#) for hosting us.

Farmers Market Vender Training in Roanoke

Virginia Foodshed Capital joins a fantastic group of organizations for a farmers market vendor training in Roanoke on March 14. We'll be part of a panel focusing on business resources. The event is presented by the [Virginia Farmers Market Association](#), [LEAP For Local Food](#), [Lynchburg](#)

[Community Market](#), and [City of Salem Farmers Market](#). The event will be held at the CoLab in Roanoke.

[For More Info Email Here](#)

BLUE RIDGE REGION

Farmers Market Vendor Training

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
9AM-3PM

NETWORK WITH FELLOW VENDORS DURING
PEER-LED PRESENTATIONS ON -

- BUSINESS RESOURCES
- BUSINESS PLANNING
- MARKETING FOR THE MARKET
- SUCCESS STORIES

COLAB
1327 GRANDIN RD. SW
ROANOKE, VA 24015

\$10/PERSON INCLUDES LUNCH

REGISTRATION INFO TO COME!

PRESENTED BY:

- VIRGINIA • FARMERS • MARKET •

VAFMA
• ASSOCIATION •

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURE PROJECT

LYNCHBURG COMMUNITY MARKET
LOCAL & PROUD SINCE 1993

MARKET OF SALES
FARMERS MARKET

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
VAFMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUE RIDGE REGION - RICKY KOWALEWSKI
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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](#)



Other Events & Opportunities

The Perils & Promise of Building a Regenerative Supply Chain

March 2, 2020
10:30-11:45
St. Stephen's Church

Sara Harper, founder of [Grounded Growth, LLC](#) in Petersburg, Va., will be speaking at the March [Real Local RVA](#)



meeting. Sara has been working in and around agriculture for the last 20 years, and in the last 2 years, she has launched an online platform that is striving to bridge the gap between regeneratively grown crops and the products it can be turned into.

[Event Details](#)

FoodCap.org

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