



*April 2021*

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We made our first loan in North Carolina this month to Crow Fly Farms. You can read about it below. Otherwise our lending slowed a bit in April compared to the first three months as many farms are very focused on the start of the season.

As we close out Earth Month, I'd like to share some inspiring words I read recently from Sherri Mitchell, a Native American author and sacred activist for environmental protection and human rights. She explained the word Kciye as meaning *harmony with the natural world*. "It teaches us that it is not enough to know that we are part of one living system. We must also take active steps to live in harmony with the rest of creation. This means that we cannot adopt attitudes or beliefs that place us above the natural world. We cannot see ourselves as having dominion over the land, the water, or the animals. We can't even see ourselves as being stewards of the Earth. We are only keepers of a way of life that is in harmony with the Earth. Every day, we must act in ways that acknowledge that we are part of one living system, a unified whole."

I was particularly struck by the point about being stewards of the Earth, a phrase I've used countless times over the years. I am humbly reminded how important it is to reframe our language, our attitudes, and our actions if we are serious about passing the gift of our Common Home on to future generations.

Michael Reilly  
Co-founder/Executive Director

Even though April was a slower month compared to the first three,

we have a long list of projects we are working on. As demand for our work continues to grow we are in need of continued financial support. We are grateful for any consideration large or small.

**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**

## **Nurture Capital In Progress...**

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



*New high tunnel going up at [Root and Marrow Farm](#) in Loudoun County.*



*Herd of cattle arriving at [Purple Mockingbird Farm](#) in Appomattox County, as part of a program through the Savory Institute.*



*New workshop being constructed at [Tonoloway Farm](#) in Highland County.*



*Mirkwood Farm in Augusta County unveils its beautiful new logo.*



## Foodshed Capital's Impact through April 2021\*

- 46 loans made to farms/food businesses
- \$473,000 in total value of loans made
- 85% of loans made to farms owned or operated in part by women or people of color



\* Since inception - January 2019

## New Loan: Crow Fly Farms



Wife and husband team Laura Mikos and Jake Puckett run [Crow Fly Farms](#), located in the foothill's of Western North Carolina just outside the mountain town of Marion. They launched the farm in 2021, returning to their home state after running an artisan bakery in Colorado. They are raising 100% grass-fed beef and forest-raised pork. Foodshed Capital's loan to Crow Fly in April is helping them with some much-needed perimeter fencing and on-farm storage. This project is part of our Regenerative Financing initiative in collaboration with [Robinia Institute](#), the regional hub of the [Savory Institute](#). We are working together to advance holistic managed grazing, implement regenerative verification, address processing obstacles, and collaborate on new supply chain opportunities.

## **Black Farmer Equity Fund**

Foodshed Capital continues to make progress toward 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](mailto:michael@foodcap.org).



# Thank you!

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to 4P Foods for including Foodshed Capital in their Earth Day Birthday celebration on April 22, when 4P turned 7 years old. Happy Birthday 4P. During the days leading up to the celebration, 4P promoted our Black Farmer Equity Fund, helping bring in many new donors that we wouldn't have reached otherwise. Thanks 4P for your partnership and for all the amazing work you do to strengthen our regional food system.

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[Real Local RVA](#) hosted an online workshop on April 22 entitled, "Understanding Your Finances." The workshop included a presentation from representatives of C&F Bank, in addition to a discussion about Foodshed Capital's lending program for farms and food businesses. Real Local RVA will always hold a special place in our hearts because it was at their monthly meeting back on May 7, 2018, that our organization officially debuted as a small Slow Money program. So on May 7, we will celebrate our 3rd birthday in low-key style, but hopefully by this time next year we can celebrate birthday #4 in more grand style...in Richmond.

**Please Support Our Work**

"Feeling that morality has nothing to do with the way you use the resources of this world is an idea that can't persist any longer. If it does, then we won't."

- Barbara Kingsolver

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