



November 2024

Greetings, *{{First Name}}*,

I'm rearranging the newsletter's furniture this month because it's the most wonderful time of the year: **Giving Season**.

I know we've all [just barely] survived a record year of political fundraising, so thanks for humoring me when I remind you that **our ability to support regenerative farmers and food entrepreneurs depends directly on financial support from this incredible community**.

Foodshed Capital is a 501(c)3 non-profit, not a bank. Like any non-profit, our programs exist to solve problems that aren't being solved by policy or the free market. And in just a little over six years, we have made **quite an impact** for regenerative farmers and food entrepreneurs with our completely unique approach.



Whether you want to wait until tomorrow and **make an official [Giving Tuesday](#) gift**, or you're a "knock out the to-do list early" type, **please show your support this year with a financial gift. Here are the links you need:**

[Give Online Now](#)

[Explore Your Options](#)

With that business behind us, I'm so glad to share news of what your support helped us achieve in the foodshed this November. Read on for a highlight of our work supporting **innovative land security efforts led by the Agrarian Trust, which saw us expanding our footprint to Maine for the first time.** We are also proud to have supported a thriving livestock farm expanding its revenue and **conservation stewardship through the development of a native tree nursery.**

It was also a big month for travel. Foodshed team members sat on panels discussing the future of regenerative agriculture and the financial tools needed bring that future to bear. **We also gathered with farmers, partners, and peers working to build up regional food system viability and expand the [Slow Money](#) network.**

And of course, we ruminated on the election results. **As a nonprofit organization, our role is to concern ourselves with the concerns of the communities we support.** We know that campaign promises like tariffs, mass deportation, slashed funding for food access programs, and disinvestment in climate resilience efforts will create significant challenges for our stakeholders working across the foodshed. We are watching and listening closely to ensure we're equipped to help folks respond nimbly when needs arise.

Our team is looking with great anticipation towards the slowdown of the production season, the holiday hustle, and new programming launching in January. **Thank you, as always, for joining us on this journey and for helping make our work possible.**

For love of the foodshed,



Erica Hellen

Director of Development

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Capital in the Field



Agrarian Trust

Maine, Vermont, and Virginia



Agrarian Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that acquires and stewards land for regenerative agriculture, cultural reconnection, equity, and ecological restoration.

AT's **Agrarian Commons** are land-holding subsidiary entities that hold land in community "commons" and then offer affordable long-term land leases to regenerative producers, with a priority focus on equity. Each Agrarian Commons is supported in various ways by Agrarian Trust, including through fundraising, fiscal sponsorship, and technical assistance.

A 0% interest bridge loan from Foodshed Capital gave Agrarian Trust the cash flow necessary to **secure new land, build and repair infrastructure, and extend legal support and technical assistance to Commons projects in Maine, Vermont, and central Virginia** while awaiting funding pledged for 2025.

Impacted projects include the **Somali Bantu Community Association's Liberation Farms**, where additional land was secured and major improvements made to the farm's road, as well as the **Petersburg Oasis CommUNITY Farm** in central Virginia that we supported in 2022.

Mace Chasm Farm
Keeseville, New York



Courtney Grimes Sutton launched [Mace Chasm Farm](#) in 2012 in New York's Adirondack region on 100+ acres of rolling hills. With help from livestock manager Asa Thomas-Train and numerous young farmer trainees, **Mace Chasm specializes in producing 100% grass-fed beef, forest raised pork, and pastured poultry. The farm uses regenerative practices like rotational grazing and silvopasture** to build soil health and support biodiversity.

In their nose-to-tail butcher shop, Mace Chasm processes the animals into high quality cuts, sausages, cured meats, broths, cooking fats, etc. The garlic and fresh herbs that season their sausages are also grown on-farm, and **their small scale allows them to make the most of every animal raised.**

In 2023, **Mace Chasm Farm piloted a native tree nursery to provide grafted native trees to local municipalities.** The wildly successful pilot program saw them selling 1,600 bare root and potted trees. **In 2025, they'll expand the nursery and quadruple revenue.**

A low-interest loan from Foodshed Capital paired with grant funding from the [Lake Champlain Basin Program](#) and [Adirondack North Country Association](#) will support Mace Chasm's infrastructure and cashflow needs to expand the tree nursery program for years to come.



Out & About





Grow NY Symposium - Scaling Sustainable Agriculture

Our very own Alex Pate (left) joined a panel discussion at the [2024 Grow-NY Summit](#) that explored small scale sustainable agriculture enterprises and the challenges and opportunities of scaling them, in the Northeast and beyond.

Alex enjoyed sharing ground-level insights on capitalizing small scale enterprises and appreciated the collective emphasis on the value of diversification, business development, access to capital. The conversation was moderated by Dr. Jenny Kao-Kniffen, Professor of Horticulture at Cornell CALS, in conversation with Mike Kreher of Kreher Family Farms and Karli Miller-Hornick of Head & Heal.



Croatan Institute Soil Wealth Area Convening

Foodshed's Emily Tybur (far left) joined our partners at [Croatan Institute for a gathering of 40+ Soil Wealth Areas partners](#) (farmers, food hubs, place-based organizations, value-chain businesses, TA providers, and capital providers) for a two-day working session to learn from successful [Soil Wealth](#) partners and have frank discussions about the **best ways to support underserved, low-income, and rural business owners.**

In Emily's words, "*Being among stakeholders from every part of the value chain allowed for a holistic perspective; it was a reaffirmation of the challenges and opportunities present in reshaping regional foodsheds.*"

Over the next three to five years, the partners will continue work to unlock enhanced access to capital, land, and markets, with the particular aim of creating new opportunities for **land stewardship, ownership, and wealth creation for underserved communities and small/mid-size and BIPOC farmers and entrepreneurs.**



Slow Money Providence - A Call to Farms

Yours truly (Erica Hellen, left) had a grand time with Woody Tasch (right), founder of the [Slow Money](#) movement, as well as farmers, food entrepreneurs, investors, and the Slow Money "curious" at this year's Slow Money conference in Providence, RI.

As many of you know, Foodshed Capital was originally a central Virginia-based Slow Money chapter. As demand grew for our radical 0% interest loan offering, we became certified as a CDFI to build our capacity and bring on additional staff to serve more farmers. **With this context, Foodshed's Executive Director, Michael Reilly, joined a panel discussion about the origins and evolutions of 0% interest lending** and the vital importance of wraparound business support to help borrowers increase their financial health.

Highlights for me: **Mary Berry, daughter of Wendell Berry and ED of the [The Berry Center](#), bringing us back down to earth** with a walk-through of food system efforts in her home state of Kentucky. **Eating lunch with Will Harris of [White Oak Pastures](#) as he described the incredibly thin margins he navigates** while being one of the foremost diversified livestock producers in the country. And **candid conversations with Patrick McNiff of [Pat's Pastured](#), a thriving 17-year-old livestock farm that still struggles with land security** given Rhode Island's unattainable land prices.

Foodshed Capital is clear-eyed about the challenges we collectively face to build more equitable, more regenerative food systems, but we're bolstered by refreshing spaces like these that center farmers and compel funders in new ways. Thanks to [Farm Fresh Rhode Island](#) for hosting, and we look forward to expanding our footprint to Rhode Island in 2025.

Foodshed Capital is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to build more equitable, more regenerative foodsheds.

Follow along with our journey here:



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
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