



July 2021

All over the country, farmers are gravely concerned about the weather. We're fortunate here on the East Coast not to have to worry about wildfires, but precipitation is becoming a universal quandary. Most of the region is struggling through an increasingly severe drought as summer drags on, but even so, there are places that are getting walloped by freakish amounts of rain in a short time span... 8-10 inches in 3-4 hours!

From the very beginning, our work at Foodshed Capital has been motivated by the recognition that our future depends on a resilient and regenerative local food economy. Climate change is not the only threat to our ability to feed our communities. Pandemic and cyber terrorism are now two others that are on the radar. [If you have not had a chance to read this article](#), co-authored by FoodCap executive director Michael Reilly - along with Sarah Morath, law professor at Wake Forest University and John Ikerd, author, speaker and leader in sustainability - please take a moment to do so to understand the importance of the work that all of us do to support a strong local food system.

And please consider a monthly donation to Foodshed Capital... 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



We're Hiring!

The Foodshed Capital team is expanding once again! We're seeking candidates for our new Communications and Development Associate position, which performs a variety of marketing, fundraising and special event tasks. The overarching purpose of this position is to help increase Foodshed Capital's revenue and to promote its work within the farming and funding communities. To learn more, [please click on this link for the full description.](#)



Foodshed Capital's Impact through July 2021*

- 49 loans made to farms/food businesses
- \$528,000 in total value of loans made
- 86% of loans made to farms owned or operated in part by women or people of color



* Since Inception - January 2019

Nurture Capital In Progress...

We are so excited this month about two great stories from loans we made way, way back in 2019. Check them out below.



In January 2019, Foodshed Capital made its first loan ever to farmer Renard Turner from [Vanguard Ranch](#), back when we were just a small slow money program. The 0% loan helped Renard build the infrastructure on his farm in Louisa County to raise organic squab. Squab is meat pigeon, considered a most exquisite ingredient in cuisines as distinct as Cantonese, Moroccan and French. Mother Nature and Covid slowed production of the squab down a bit, but Renard worked tenaciously to get to his first sales. Shown above is one of those sales taking place to [4P Foods](#). Thanks to 4P for supporting Renard, as well as to Chef Tucker Yoder who also purchased a large batch earlier this month for his (relatively) new restaurant in Charlottesville, [Broadcloth at the Wool Factory](#).



[GoGreen Farms](#) is a food hub and agribusiness located in Suffolk, VA. In October 2019 Foodshed Capital gave GoGreen a 0% loan to help them purchase some inventory and refrigeration. That was when they were just starting out and had 3 employees and a small 5,000 square foot facility. My, they have grown. Recently they moved into an 80,000 square foot space and now have 24 employees. Shown above is a video clip of GoGreen founder Breon Clemons as part of a testimonial video being produced by the [Opportunity Finance Network](#). The video will be shown at OFN's annual CDFI conference this fall.



Foodshed Capital is excited to announce that we are now members of [Appalachian Community Capital \(ACC\)](#). ACC is a network of CDFIs committed to a growing economy, increased entrepreneurship, higher quality jobs, and increased local wealth in the Appalachian region. ACC, which is itself a CDFI, is made up of about two dozen CDFIs from Ohio down to Alabama.

Black Farmer Equity Fund



Thank you to all those who continue to support our Black Farmer Equity Fund. We are particularly grateful for a \$25,000 grant this month from the Danville Regional Foundation, which will allow us to spread our work around the Danville region, including Pittsylvania County (VA) and Caswell County (NC). We are excited to move forward with some strong partnerships in the region.

In addition to partnership building, one of the Black Farmer Equity Fund's goals is to elevate the conversation around traditional lending paradigms. There is a lot of talk these days about "changing institutional systems of racism," but when it comes to lending, not much will change until lenders are willing to unbind themselves from extractive practices related to rates, terms and collateral. Foodshed Capital is doing just that: disrupting the way loans are made to Black and Brown farmers to avoid repeating the patterns of discrimination and asset-repossession that have been the lending industry's legacy.

If you have the capacity to make a major gift toward this effort, please contact Michael Reilly at michael@foodcap.org.

Please Support Our Work



Pictured above (on the left) is Foodshed Capital's Director of Lending India Brahm. India is spending each Thursday this summer volunteering at [RealRoots in Richmond](#). The experience is helping India become more knowledgeable about farming so she can better serve our borrowers, while also supporting a POC-run farm that works in collaboration with two women-run farms, [Shine Farms](#) and [Hazel Witch Farm](#).

Real Local RVA Farm Tour

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH 2021

FARM TOUR

VISIT
3
FARMS

featuring:

AT CHARLOTTE ACRES

3:00-7:00PM

Shine Farms
Hazel Witch Farm
Real Roots Food Systems



TICKETS AND MORE INFO COMING SOON!

Mark your calendar for the return of [Real Local RVA's](#) farm tour, sponsored in part this year by Foodshed Capital. This year's tour will take place at [Real Roots](#), [Shine Farms](#), and [Hazel Witch Farm](#). More info will be coming soon. Sign up for Real Local's email list if you are not already on it.

"Common sense has been called 'heavenly wisdom', and a lack of it may lead to a world-wide tragedy, if steps are not taken to save the life of the soil.."

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