



December 2019

We are so grateful to all those who helped us successfully achieve our year-end fundraising goals. Our match-campaign in November set the stage with an initial \$30,000 raised. From there we added significantly to our totals thanks to the generosity of so many supporters, as well as to grant funding from the Community Endowment Fund and the Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band, both administered by the [Charlottesville Area Community Foundation](#).

Thank you!

We are completing our first full calendar year in operation and could not be more delighted by our progress. At the beginning of 2019, we thought we'd be content with making six loans from our 0% SOIL fund just around the Central Virginia area. Well, we soared past that and have now made 16 loans totaling \$104,000, expanding into both the Tidewater and Shenandoah Valley regions.

What makes our progress more rewarding is that it has truly been a grassroots effort and no donation has been too small to count. When we launched our organization in mid 2018, we started with **zero dollars**. We did not have the benefit of deep-pocketed founders, or seed capital from private or public sources to get us going. Since starting at zero, we have now raised more than \$230,000 toward our mission from dozens of people across the state.

We truly believe our local farmers and food artisans are the most hard-working, enterprising, dedicated, and delightful people in the world. It personally gives me great pleasure to work with them day in and day out. They deserve the biggest thanks of all.

Sometimes it's quite challenging in a very crowded world of non-profits to convey to people how important our work is - supporting the financial needs of our local food producers. This is primarily a function of the lack of awareness that most people have about how food is produced; or how important ecological farming practices are

to protecting our soil, fostering biodiversity, preserving our environment, and developing resiliency against the climate shocks that are now upon us.

We know all of our supporters understand this and we hope you will continue spreading the word about our work. If you have not yet contributed to our SOIL Loan Fund as part of our year-end campaign, please consider doing so, now or at any time into the new year. We have several loans in the pipeline that we expect to fund soon. And we have some exciting developments in the works for the year ahead. From the bottom of my heart, thank you again.

Peace and harmony to everyone during the holiday season, and beyond,

Michael Reilly
Co-founder & Executive Director

[Donate Here!](#)

Nurture Capital At Work

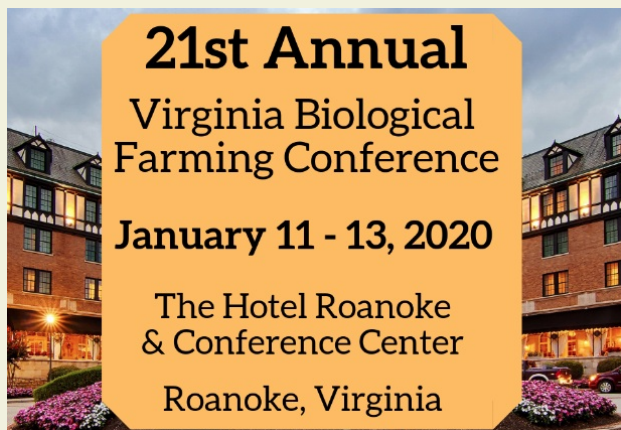
Each month we keep you up-to-date on how your support is helping us and our farm/food business partners make an impact. As we close out this year, we couldn't be more excited to report on the recent success of [GoGreen Farms](#), a Hampton Roads based food hub that delivers local food throughout Tidewater and Richmond. In late November they began a partnership with Chesapeake Public School's "Farm to Cafeteria" initiative. The SOIL loan that GoGreen Farms received from Virginia Foodshed Capital this fall helped them complete their first order for collard greens, which were provided to all 47 schools in the Chesapeake district for their annual Thanksgiving menu. The greens came from one of GoGreen's partnering farmers located in York County, VA.



Virginia Biological Farming Conference

[Virginia Association for Biological Farming](#) invites you to its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Roanoke. The Conference brings together farmers, gardeners, eaters, educators and advocates of sustainable agriculture. Virginia Foodshed Capital will lead a pre-conference workshop on The Business of Farming. Sign up now!

[Event Details](#)



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

Farming For Our Soil, Livelihood, and Community

*January 16-18, 2020
East Hyattsville, MD*



Join Future Harvest CASA at their 21st Annual conference, featuring keynote speakers Leah Penniman from [Soul Fire Farm](#) and Dr. Elaine Ingham from [Soil Food Web](#).

[Event Details](#)

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