



*February 2021*

---

It seems the past few winters we've become accustomed to daffodils blooming in February. But not so much this year. Winter has lived up to its name and we hope everyone has been managing ok through the snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain. It will make the arrival of spring all the more rejuvenating.

We know the weather hasn't daunted farmers, all of whom are prepping diligently for the upcoming season. Foodshed Capital has contributed \$51,000 in loans toward this effort, including assisting with the construction of a high tunnel and helping launch a new regenerative farm.

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.**

One-time major gifts are also very much welcomed.

**Please Support Our Work**

**Nurture Capital At Work**

[Broadfork Farm](#) in Chesterfield County is always busy throughout the

year producing [Certified Naturally Grown](#) produce for their Farm Share members and Richmond farmers market customers. But this winter they've been especially busy constructing an on-farm multi-purpose building that will include housing for their employees. Farm owners Janet and Dan Aardema are committed to providing a living space conducive to healthy relationships and to creating a new standard for farm worker housing. Foodshed Capital embraced the opportunity to partner with Janet and Dan on this project and help bring their vision to life.





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

- 40 loans made to farms/food businesses
- \$382,000 in total value of loans made
- 80% of loans made to farms owned or operated by women or people of color



### Black Farmer Equity Fund

Thanks in large part to a grant from the [PATH Foundation](#) in Warrenton, Foodshed Capital is launching a pilot program for 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).

**Our goal in forming this fund is to inspire systemic change and provoke uncomfortable conversations about the "way things have always been done" in agriculture and finance.**

**This requires a measured approach and lots and lots of learning. Please take some time to read this article as one example of what we're reading.**

## JOB OPENING!

Foodshed Capital and [Local Food Hub](#) are jointly hiring an Outreach and Diversity Coordinator to help manage a technical assistance program for farmers and our Black Farmer Equity Fund, and to assist in other areas of farmer services as needed.

[Click Here to For the Full Job Description and To Apply](#)

## Expanding Regenerative Agriculture Through Patient Capital

We are working in partnership with the [Savory Institute's Central Virginia hub \(Robinia\)](#) to accelerate the adoption of holistic grazing practices in the region. Savory uses an outcome-based framework called [Ecological Outcome Verification \(EOV\)](#) framework, which is a practical and scalable soil and landscape assessment methodology that tracks outcomes in biodiversity, soil health, and ecosystem function (water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow and community dynamics). The need for catalytic and patient capital is critical in this process, and Foodshed Capital is building capacity to do this work. If you have interest in making a major gift toward this effort, or providing other types of support, please contact Michael Reilly at [michael@foodcap.org](mailto:michael@foodcap.org).



---

## Partnering with Agrarian Trust

Foodshed Capital is partnering with [Agrarian Trust](#) to help execute their [Agrarian Commons](#) initiative across the region. The Agrarian Commons is an innovative and transformative land-holding model committed to shaping a just, resilient, healthy food system and farm economy for the communities it serves. The Agrarian Commons hold land in community-centered entities that are 501(c)(2) subsidiaries

of the national 501(c)(3) Agrarian Trust. All decision making within an Agrarian Commons takes place in the local 501(c)(2) governance structure. These Agrarian Commons own assets and land to convey affordable and equitable leases for the purpose of chemical-free, regenerative, and ecologically sustainable diversified food production for community benefit. Each Agrarian Commons is supported in various ways by the national 501(c)(3) Agrarian Trust.

Foodshed Capital's role will be to provide debt financing for land acquisition. If you are interested in supporting this work, particularly foundations, please contact Michael Reilly at [michael@foodcap.org](mailto:michael@foodcap.org).

**Please Support Our Work**



# Virginia Food Access Investment Fund



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE AND  
CONSUMER SERVICES

The inaugural grant round for the [Virginia Food Access Investment Fund \(VFAIF\)](#) is now open and will close on April 30, 2021. VFAIF is a statewide program that focuses on equity and justice in local food systems by investing in new or expanding food retailers that address food access issues in the Commonwealth. VFAIF offers grants and loans to fund the business development, construction, rehabilitation, equipment upgrades and expansion of grocery stores, small food retailers, and innovative food retail projects in historically marginalized communities.

Back on January 12, Foodshed Capital partnered with [Virginia Community Capital](#) to host a webinar about VFAIF as part of our monthly series on Food System Financing in Virginia. We hosted several members of VDACS. If you missed the webinar, you can catch a recording [HERE](#).

# Is Your Concern for the Climate at Odds With Where You Do Your Banking?



## Banking for a climate positive future

Meet **AtmosACTION**.

The first high-performance savings account engineered to reverse the climate crisis.

Join Atmos

If your answer to the question about is "yes," then join [Atmos](#)! It is an innovative and unique banking solution seeking to reverse the climate crisis, instead of abetting it like most banks. When you open an [Atmos FDIC Insured Savings Account](#), your money will help fund a fair, just, and climate-forward economy. Better yet, you will have the opportunity to donate some of your earnings from an above-market interest rate toward Foodshed Capital. And if you sign up for an account before March 17, Atmos will give you an extra \$5 in your account.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

## Fighting Food Apartheid And Finding Freedom On A Virginia Farm

[Local Farmer Renard Turner was featured in a recent article in Eco Farming Daily](#), an online publication of [Acres USA](#). Renard and his wife Chinette run [Vanguard Ranch](#) in Louisa County, Virginia. Foodshed Capital supported them with a 0% SOIL Loan in January 2019 to help them develop a new organic squab product line. This article is a well-deserved tribute to Renard's work in local sustainable agriculture. It is authored by local writer Leigh Glenn.



"Where **common memory** is lacking, where people do **not** share in the same past, **there can be no** real **community**. Where **community** is to be formed, **common memory** must be created."

*-George Erasmus (Canadian politician and former leader of the Assembly of First Nations)*

FoodCap.org

(434) 409-0053 | info@foodcap.org



Share



Tweet



Share

STAY CONNECTED



*In affiliation with:*

