



SO LONG, 2023



{{First Name}},

In what may be my shortest note of all time, I'd like to bid adieu to 2023 with a **small highlight of a big win for Black land security**. See below for details on Foodshed Capital's biggest loan to date in partnership with the historic [Clemmons Family Farm](#).

I'm sending this early because it's time for everyone to clock out and settle in to some time off. Of course, I'd be remiss not to remind you that you still have time to **support our work with a financial gift before the end of the year**.

We cannot offer transformative services like 0% interest loans and zero-cost business support without you. We hope today will be the day you make an end-year-gift to help Foodshed Capital continue our work supporting regenerative farmers and food entrepreneurs.

Thanks as always for your readership and your mutual support of a better foodshed for all. Stay warm wherever you are, and we'll see you in the new year!

With gratitude,



SECURING BLACK LAND OWNERSHIP IN PERPETUITY

In 2023, FoodCap had the honor of supporting the African American women-led non-profit, [Clemmons Family Farm](#) (CFF), as it sought to formally secure its farmland and continue its vital cross-cultural community programming.

One of just 18 Black-owned farms in the entire state of Vermont, the Clemmons farm was purchased by Dr. Jackson Clemmons and Mrs. Lydia Clemmons in 1962. The couple maintained the property as a working farm, restored its many historic buildings (some dating back to the 1700s), and created space to share African American history, culture, and arts.

The couple owned the farm for 61 consecutive years without selling a single acre - until 2023. Auspiciously, the purchase coincided with the former owners' 100th birthdays - both were born in 1923.



Under the leadership of President and Executive Director, Dr. Lydia Clemmons, PhD, MPH (who shares a name with her mother), **CFF united a diverse array of partners to mobilize the funds needed to purchase the farm** at its fair market value and to secure both its history and its future. The consortium of funders included public grantors, private donors, equity-focused lenders and land trusts, and reflects the farm's own diversity and ingenuity as an arts and culture center, working farm, and historic site.

In addition to its cultural programming, CFF's prime agricultural land has produced organic hay and alfalfa crops for over fifty years. More recently, they've added organic wheat, soy, black beans, and pinto beans into the rotation, and are expanding production of fresh vegetables.



Foodshed Capital was so proud to support CFF with a 0% interest bridge loan ahead of the sale of a conservation easement on the farm.

Looking forward, CFF is gearing up for infrastructure improvements on the farm, adding staff and volunteers, developing new agricultural and outdoor recreational programming, and expanding its educational, cultural, and arts programs. These future enhancements will ensure the continued growth and impact of the farm both as a major economic platform for Vermont's Black artists and farmers, and as a meaningful place for **bringing community members together across differences of race and cultural heritage.**

Learn more about the Clemmons Family Farm project [here](#).

**Your financial support made this project possible.
Please help us continue the work in 2024!**

Make Your End-of-Year Donation



Our Contact Information

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