



Funding Local Food In Virginia



September 2020

Foodshed Capital's mission states that our work promotes an equitable and regenerative food economy. We believe food is the cornerstone of a regenerative economy as a whole. I've been asked more than a few times what a regenerative economy actually looks like.

To me it's a framework that strives to eliminate extraction and exploitation not just from our financial and economic systems, but our social, cultural, and political structures as well. Our current vocabulary doesn't always do justice to a regenerative economy's potential. It begs for new words to describe a way of living that accrues equitable and restorative outcomes to the planet and all its living inhabitants.

Through the action of our work we hope to bring clarity to this vision. In doing so we lean on a growing flock of thought leaders in this space, such as our friends at the [Croatan Institute](#) in North Carolina, and the [Capital Institute](#), whose founder John Fullerton has been writing about Regenerative Economics for at least the past five years. In his seminal booklet on the topic, Fullerton explains:

"The regenerative story starts with a single core idea: We can use the universal principles and patterns underlying stable, healthy, and sustainable living and nonliving systems throughout the real world as a model for economic-system design... A regenerative system is self-organizing and self-sustainable. It does not 'kick the can down the road' as our modern political economy does with respect to inequality, poverty, natural resource limits, pollution, health... The purpose of a Regenerative Economy is to promote and sustain human prosperity and well-being in an economy of permanence."

The urgent task before us is to bring our economic system into alignment with the regenerative process. It seems facile to lean on a well-worn cliché and say "this is a journey." That conjures images of

a carefree drive through the countryside. Unfortunately, we need to think about this more like a rush to the emergency room. With wisdom and determination, I'm confident we'll get there safely, and come out stronger and healthier in the end.

Thank you for everyone's support. Peace be to all.

Michael Reilly
Co-founder & Executive Director

Please Donate To Our Soil Fund!


New SOIL Loan: ShireFolk Farm

[ShireFolk Farm](#) is located in near the town of Palmyra in Fluvanna County. The 63-acre operation has been owned and operated there since 2016 by Logan and Emilie Tweardy. They grow Certified Naturally Grown produce and mushrooms, and raise chicken for meat and eggs, as well as pigs, sheep and Thanksgiving turkeys. All of these operations are pasture-based; they rely on the principles of permaculture and regenerative management, rotating the animals regularly to maximize soil health, plant life, and animal well-being.

In addition to running the farm, Emilie is also active as a teacher for the [Shenandoah Permaculture Institute](#).

With its 0% SOIL Loan, ShireFolk is purchasing a Featherman Prairie Schooner, to help them boost production for their highly profitable turkey operation.

Please see our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [Instagram account](#) for ongoing updates on all our projects.





The Tweardy Family at ShireFolk Farm

Total Loans Made: 31
Total Value of Loans: \$234,300

** since January 2019*

Pennsylvania Farm Vitality Program Update

Last month we told you about our partnership in Pennsylvania with [Kitchen Table Consultants](#), to assist farmers participating in a business training program. The program is called the [Farm Vitality Planning Grant](#) and is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). Its purpose is to enhance the long-term vitality of Pennsylvania's farms through sound business planning, efficient

transitions of farm ownership, strategic farm expansion, diversification of agricultural production, and development of financial and technical expertise for farmers.

Because the farmers don't receive the grant funding until after they've completed the training, it can be an impediment to participation. So Foodshed Capital is providing bridge loans to help make it easier on the participants' cash flow. We are busy at work, making five loans to the past few weeks to some incredible farms, including [North Mountain Pastures](#), [Livengood Family Farm](#), [Bonnie Blue Farm](#), [Lindenhof Farm](#), and [Painterland Sisters](#), a woman-owned business supporting the marketing and processing needs for a multi-generation family-owned organic dairy.



Farmers Anna & Brooks and their children at North Mountain Pastures in Newport, PA



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Virginia Foodshed Capital is excited to announce a \$200,000 funding award through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's office of Rural Development. The funding, through the [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#), will help us expand the scope of our work, building on the foundation we've laid with our SOIL Loan Fund. We will have more details forthcoming in the near future.

Free Webinar Series

from Virginia Community Capital & Virginia Foodshed Capital

Food System Financing in Virginia

August 11
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 17
December 15

Hear from food system funders, technical assistance providers, incentive programs, and organizations who have received financial resources.



On September 22 we held our third webinar as part of a monthly food financing series with [Virginia Community Capital](#). A total of 41 people attended and we heard about some fantastic work being accomplished to improve food access around the region. Philip Sambol from [Good Food Markets](#) explained their strategy for developing local retail markets in food desert communities within and beyond Washington DC. Bob Stephens and Leah Gottlieb from [St. Paul's Community Development Corporation](#) in Norfolk talked about their shift in focus toward food access following the closure of chain grocery stores in underserved city communities.

Our "Food System Financing" series is exploring how we get money to the people who need it to build a healthy, equitable, regenerative local food economy that is accessible to everyone. The series will be held monthly through the end of the year. At the end of the series we hope to compile the lessons learned into roadmap for a more resilient, robust and equitable food system in Virginia. Our next webinar is scheduled for October 27 and will feature a discussion with [Virginia Fresh Match](#).

[Please join us for the next webinar in October. Click here to find out more.](#)

Accepting Farmer Loan Applications

As we have always done, we continue to accept loan applications for our signature grassroots program called **SOIL**, a 0% revolving loan program for amounts up to \$10,000. Applications are typically accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. However, due to high demand for financing, we may not be able to accommodate those who have immediate needs. Please consider how your project could be spread out over the longer term.

[Virginia Foodshed Capital Borrower Information Form](#)

New Woody Tasch Book

AHA!

Fake Trillions, Real Billions,
Beetcoin and the
Great American Do-Over



[Installment Four](#) and [Installment Five](#) have now been released for Slow Money founder Woody Tasch's new book, *AHA: Fake Trillions, Real Billions, Beetcoin and the Great American Do-Over*. The book is being distributed free of charge in installments. You can find the first three installment here: [Installment One](#), [Installment Two](#), [Installment Three](#). If you want to receive future installments be sure to get on their mailing list at the [Slow Money website](#).

"Our industrial food system is an invisible

form of oppression."
-Dr. Mark Hyman, author of *Food Fix*

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