



2021 Impact Report:
2nd Quarter





2nd Quarter Highlights:



4 Loans Made



\$68,000 in loans total



18 Hours of technical assistance delivered



USDA Regional Food System Partnerships grant submitted



\$200,000 CDFI Funding awarded

Historical Performance

Since January 2019

49

loans Made

\$528,000

in funding

238

hours of technical
assistance

69%

of loans to women led
or co-led enterprises

24%

of loans to POC
led enterprises

258

food & farm jobs
supported



Our Mission

To promote an equitable and regenerative local food economy through patient, non-extractive, low-cost capital, and business-focused technical assistance.



2nd Quarter Loans



Crow Fly Farms

McDowell Co, NC

\$15,500 Low Interest Loan, April 2021

Crow Fly Farms is a regenerative livestock farm located in the foothills of Western North Carolina just outside the mountain town of Marion. It is Foodshed Capital's first loan in North Carolina. The farm is run by wife and husband team Laura Mikos and Jake Puckett. They launched the farm in 2021, returning to their home state after running an artisan bakery in Colorado. They are raising 100% grass-fed beef and forest-raised pork. Our loan to Crow Fly is helping them with some much-needed perimeter fencing and on-farm storage. This project is part of our Regenerative Financing initiative in collaboration with Robinia Institute, the regional hub of the Savory Institute. We are working together to advance holistic managed grazing, implement regenerative verification, address processing obstacles, and collaborate on new supply chain opportunities.



Purple Mockingbird Farm

Appomattox Co, VA

\$17,500 Low Interest Loan, May 2021

Purple Mockingbird Farm, just north of the town of Appomattox, Virginia, is a new livestock farm started by Dara and Byron Burns in early 2021. The 60-acre operation is dedicated to raising multi-species livestock using regenerative practices, with a focus on holistic grazing. This is another one of the pilot farms in Foodshed Capital's Regenerative Financing Initiative. And it is our second loan to Purple Mockingbird in 2021. The first loan in January helped them pay for installation of perimeter fencing and consulting services. This second loan is helping pay for some farm equipment to help them better steward their sprawling and undulating property.





2nd Quarter Loans

Juniper's Garden

Prince George's Co, MD
\$25,000 0% SOIL Loan, May 2021



Juniper's Garden is a start-up veggie, herb, and meat-bird farmstead located in Brandywine, Maryland. Co-owners Blain Snipstal and Samaria King launched Juniper's Garden in 2019 as an intensive market garden, with the intention of creating a space for the intersection of herbalism, community education and wellness, and food production. Together, Blain and Samaria have more than 15 years experience in agriculture. Blain is founder, designer and lead builder for Earth-Bound Building, a collective of skilled builders, crafts-people and farmers founded in 2014. Samaria joined the DC nonprofit Dreaming Out Loud in 2018 to help develop and manage the Farm at Kelly Miller. Foodshed Capital's 0% loan through our Black Farmer Equity Fund will go toward various equipment and infrastructure needs that are crucial to the growth of Juniper's Garden. This was our first loan in Maryland.

SoulShine Farms

Bedford Co., VA
\$10,000 Low Interest Loan, June 2021



Dustin Formon began SoulShine in 2015 as a small-scale urban farm in Lynchburg, VA, operating with a shoestring budget and a DIY mentality on backyards throughout the city. In 2019, he and his wife Rachel broke ground on Rachel's family 150-acre property in Bedford, Va, where they have now set up their permanent farm. This move has allowed them to expand their offerings from quick harvest produce to beets, broccoli, sea of greens, and much more, all grown with a keen eye toward soil health. Until now, SoulShine has been operating between two locations: harvesting from the farm in Bedford and transporting post harvest to Dustin's Lynchburg home for wash/pack/storage. They will put the funds from our loan to immediate use on a processing shed and cooler on-farm in Bedford that will allow them to streamline and expand the operation.



Regional Food System Partnership

Foodshed Capital has lead a group of partners in applying for a Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) grant through the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The purpose of RFSP is to strengthen the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination. Our project is focused on developing a regenerative-verified meat supply chain in the Mid-Atlantic. Making this work requires careful coordination between many actors in the local food system, from production and processing, up through sales and distribution... and of course financing! We've brought together an amazing group of well-qualified and experienced partners (identified below). We'll find out in the fall if USDA funds the project. Either way, work on this is already happening, such as training in June at the Robinia Institute for an ecological outcome verification framework created by the Savory Institute. Focusing on regenerative outcomes is essential at a time when the word "regenerative" is being coopted, greenwashed, and carelessly tossed about as a practice-based system without paying attention to proven results.



[4P Foods, VA](#)



[Robinia Institute
\(Savory Hub\), VA](#)



[American Farmland
Trust, DC](#)



[Hatch Kitchen RVA](#)



[Piedmont Environmental
Council, VA](#)



[Kitchen Table
Consultants, PA](#)



[Future Harvest, MD](#)



Farmers from across the country spent a week in June training for the Ecological Outcome Verification program at Timshel Wildland in Nelson County, Va., home of the Robinia Institute (regional Savory hub).

More collaborations integral to our work in second quarter 2021:

Kitchen Table Consultants

Our work with KTC - a food and farm business consulting service in PA - continued in Q2. The second round of the Farm Vitality Planning Grant program got underway as the first round nears completion. We are also working together to develop FoodCap's own internal processes and procedures.

Future Harvest

Future Harvest is an MD-based nonprofit supporting sustainable ag in the Chesapeake region. In addition to working together on the RFSP grant, we are a partner on their recently approved USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher grant. We will be providing some capital access workshops to socially disadvantaged farmers.

Local Food Hub

After hiring Bri Stevenson together in Q1, we continue to work together with Local Food Hub on a weekly basis on outreach to farmers of color throughout Virginia. This is an invaluable partnership that will continue to grow in the years to come.

4P Foods

In addition to collaborating with 4P on the RFSP grant, we continue to work closely with them on the Black Farmer Equity Fund. We are grateful to them for featuring our work as part of their 7th anniversary celebration in April, which brought in more than a thousand dollars in donations for Black farmers.

Real Local RVA

Real Local RVA is grassroots group of farmers and food businesses working to build a more collaborative local food system in Richmond. In April they hosted an online workshop entitled, "Understanding Your Finances," which included a presentation on Foodshed Capital's lending program for farms and food businesses.

VA CDFI Coalition

Foodshed Capital has joined nearly two dozen other CDFI's in Virginia to form the Virginia CDFI Coalition. Its mission is to build awareness around the importance of the work that CDFIs do in the state. The coalition comes on the heels of a \$10 million budget amendment in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly that created a VA CDFI Fund.

Local Food Saves the Day (Again)

By [Sarah Morath](#), [John Ikerd](#), [Michael Reilly](#), originally published by [Resilience.org](#)

© June 25, 2021

The following article succinctly sums up the importance of our mission at Foodshed Capital. [It was published in the online journal "Resilience"](#) and 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.

The flaws of an industrialized food system have, yet again, been exposed—this time through a cyberattack. On May 30, 2021, a cyberattack caused JBS, the world's largest meat processing plant, [to close nine meat processing plants](#) in the United States. Although the shutdown lasted for only a day, analysts report that even short stoppages [impact meat prices](#). Disruptions like the cyberattack highlight the problems with an industrialized food system and the need for policies that support local food systems.

A more pronounced disruption occurred over a year ago when Covid outbreaks forced many meatpacking plants, food processing plants, and farms to close for several weeks and months. The Food and Environment Reporting Network [reports](#) that as of June 21, 2021, at least 91,140 workers have tested positive for Covid-19; at least 464 workers have died. In addition to these tragedies, the pandemic forced farmers to [euthanize animals and dump milk](#) because while production continued, meat and milk processing did not.

The meat industry, like other agricultural sectors, has become increasingly consolidated over the past four decades. Four giant companies, including JBS, control [more than 80% of the U.S. beef](#) supply. Poultry, [pork, dairy, and field crop operations](#) have experienced similar consolidation. [The United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) reports](#) that there were 2.02 million U.S. farms in 2020, down from 2.20 million in 2007, and 6.8 million farms in 1935, with the largest farms accounting for more than [70% of the cropland](#) in the United States. The number of Black farmers [has decreased to](#) just under 50,000 in 2017 from its peak of 1 million in 1920.

Industrialized farming operations grew out of a need to accommodate these large-scale corporate processors. Bolstered by [discriminatory](#) USDA programs, [monoculture farms](#) and [concentrated animal feeding operations](#) (CAFOs) have displaced traditional farming operations. Prioritizing productivity and profits, these industrialized operations use techniques that [harm farmworkers, impact public health, degrade the environment, and perpetuate inequality](#).

Weather-related disasters, like droughts, flooding, and freezes, which have become more frequent and intense [due to climate change](#), used to be the only worry. Now, enterprises that are part of the industrialized food system must also contend with pandemics and cyberattacks.

No matter the cause of the disruption—climate, pandemic, cyberattack—the consequences are the same. Shortages occur, prices rise, and workers are harmed. To minimize the impact, the federal government often saves the day with [huge bailouts](#), as was the case during the pandemic. An industrialized food system is costly in more ways than one.

In contrast, local food systems are diversified and nimble, making them much less susceptible to disruptions. Unlike corporate farms and processors, many local farming operations thrived during Covid. While some local farms, like those selling to restaurants, had to pivot, many found [new outlets or grew existing ones](#). Empty shelves and safety concerns spurred consumer interest in local food businesses like [farmers' markets](#), [CSAs](#), [food hubs](#), [independent meat processors](#), and [pick-your-own](#) operations. The pandemic revealed not only the resiliency of local food systems but also their necessity.

Unlike corporate directors, those involved with local food systems tend to be concerned with more than just the bottom line. While local food is premised on [geography](#)—the distance between agricultural producers and food consumers—local farming operations often use farming techniques that are regenerative and sustainable. These practices avoid pesticides, improve biodiversity, prevent soil erosion, retain soil health, reduce carbon footprints, and build community. Local food operations can provide [better working conditions](#), prevent monopolies, and preserve open space. Additionally, local food operations infuse money into the local economy and provide [opportunities to Black and Brown farmers](#) and businesses.

Recognizing the benefits of local food, in May 2021, the USDA [announced](#) over \$92.2 million in competitive grant funding under the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). A Farm Bill program, LAMP has a history of generating new income sources for small, beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers.

After the JBS cyberattack, former director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Christopher Krebs, [warned](#) that "everyone is in play." But the damage can be diminished when you don't have all your eggs in one basket.

Rather than propping up an expensive, vulnerable, and consolidated industrialized food system, American tax dollars would be better spent growing programs like LAMP and aiding the transition to a food system that is sustainable, resilient, and local.



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