



January 2025

Dear *{{First Name}}*,

Raise your hand if every day of the last few weeks felt like a year!

Between the devastating fires in Los Angeles, the snow and arctic temps that blanketed much of the country (resident weatherman and CEO, Michael Reilly, noted that **New Orleans has had more snow than Boston this year**), and the dizzying whirlwind of executive orders and policy shifts, recapping this month in the foodshed has made for an interesting challenge.

Like many of you, we at Foodshed Capital are doing our level best to stay clear-headed while keeping an eye on new developments—though let's be real, we're also taking intentional news breaks and staying hydrated, because bless our collective hearts, this is one heck of a moment. **With so much at stake for our work, communities, and livelihoods, at least we're in good company navigating the uncertainty.** Huge shoutout to colleagues at [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) for keeping their members informed!

I know you never doubted us, but I'll say it again: **Our mission to build more equitable, regenerative foodsheds through capital and coaching remains unchanged, no matter the political winds.** It just makes sense - socially, ecologically, financially, and morally.

Fire, snow, and political whiplash aside, January was a month to be proud of.

We're thrilled to launch the Foodshed Capital Bookkeeping Fellowship, supporting three farm businesses with a full year of in-depth financial training, zero-cost bookkeeping software, and stipends for engagement. Scroll on down to meet our inspiring fellows!

Our staff traveled to two regional conferences (highlights below), and we're wrapping up several loans, including a **bridge loan for a food hub in New York State and some small loans in Puerto Rico through partnership with [Monte Azul Foundation](#).** Updates on

that front to come next month.

I'll close by saying, **if there was ever a time to turn 'appreciation from afar' into tangible impact for regenerative farmers, it's now.** [Make a donation right here](#) to keep this good work going.

Come hell or high water,



Erica Hellen
Chief Development Officer
Erica@foodcap.org

Meet the Fellows

Introducing, Foodshed Capital's inaugural Bookkeeping Fellowship! Over the course of this yearlong program, Fellows will meet with our staff monthly to implement and maintain a bookkeeping system for their farm business.

From step-by-step support with onboarding and monthly reconciliations, to developing and analyzing reports, **Fellows will complete the program with accurate 2025 financials, the documents needed to apply for capital, and the know-how to manage the business side of their farm** going forward.

We look forward to highlighting each operation in greater depth and keeping you updated as the work unfolds.



Deer Creek Farm Covington, Georgia

Co-owned by Merlon and Joe Harper, [Deer Creek Farm](#) is a Certified Naturally Grown blueberry u-pick and diversified vegetable farm near Atlanta.



Spice Creek Farm Brandywine, Maryland

Co-owned by Gail Taylor and D'Real Graham, [Spice Creek Farm](#) is the expansion of a DC-based urban vegetable farm [Three Part Harmony Farm](#). At Spice Creek, they will increase veggie production and add poultry for meat and eggs.



Finca Seremos Sullivan County, New York

Co-owned by Brenda Gonzalez and Chris Nickel, [Finca Seremos](#) is a diversified vegetable CSA providing members in New York State with nutrient-dense, organically grown, fresh, and culturally appropriate food.

Out & About

Virginia Association for Biological Farming Roanoke, Virginia



Data & Systems Manager, Ashley Appolon, and Director of Programs, Emily Tybur, reported that **this year's annual Virginia Association for Biological Farming conference came complete with "inspiring keynote speakers" and "the best conference meals [they've] ever had."** We've been attending this Virginia-focused conference every year since before Foodshed Capital even existed. Farmer outreach in our home state: check!

Future Harvest Conference Silver Spring, MD



Alex Pate, FoodCap's Director of Outreach & Partnerships, represented at the 26th annual [Future Harvest](#) conference, presenting about farm financing opportunities for young and beginning farmers. We have been collaborating with the Chesapeake-based organization for several years, providing periodic trainings to their [Beginning Farmer Training Program](#) and supporting multiple farmers in their network with their capital needs.

Farmer Resources

BEGINNING FARMER BOOST PROGRAM

A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE PROVIDING FINANCIAL, MARKETING, AND PRODUCTION EDUCATION AND ASSETS FOR NY BEGINNING FARMERS

- Marketing Assets \$3k value!
- Financial Management & Planning
- Production Education
- Publication Gift Card

Applications accepted through February 10, 2025

CADE

The poster features a central image of a cow's face and a smaller inset image of a farmer in a field. The CADE logo is at the bottom left.

CADE Beginning Farmer Training

This competitive technical assistance package provides financial, marketing, and production education and assets for **NY beginning farmers**. Designed for farmers with an established business concept who are ready to create professional brand assets and grow their financial management skills.

Value: ~\$4,000 in services, plus NYFC membership, gift card, and discounts
Deadline to Apply: February 9, 2025
[Learn More Here.](#)



Quivira Coalition New Agrarian Program Regen. Ag. Fellowship

Designed to be an extracurricular addition to a working experience on a ranch or farm, **fellows will receive access to a community of support and additional resources** to supplement their experience and advance their careers in regenerative agriculture.

Stipend: \$500 upon program completion
Deadline to Apply: March 15, 2025
[Learn More Here.](#)

Support Our Work

**Feeling anxious and uncertain?
Making a donation is great for that.**

Widespread uncertainty may be on the menu for a while, but I say with certainty that Foodshed Capital can transform your dollars into positive outcomes for regenerative farmers, communities, and climate. Thanks for your support!

[Donate Here Now](#)

Foodshed Capital is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to build more equitable, more regenerative foodsheds.

Follow along with our journey here:



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
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