Ashley here, FoodCap's relatively new Communications & Outreach Coordinator. Not sure when I detach the new girl title from my introduction. Is it at the six-month mark, the one-year? Maybe after I've hit a couple of milestones, like writing my first FoodCap newsletter or being in an official FoodCap team picture - see above for (most of) our glamorous, beaming team!

Early this month, our Virginia-based team met in person to think big picture, munch on a delicious meal, and channel our inner models. Not only did we enjoy each other's company, but we also had the opportunity to reconnect to our "why" and reimagine our "how." At this particular meeting, we dove in with renewed vigor to the issue of land access and ownership among small-scale BIPOC farmers.

We know that restructuring the food system involves more than lending capital to local farmers. Before purchasing equipment and selling produce at the local farmer's market, a farmer needs land, but not every farmer has the same purchasing power.

Soon we'll share more about an initiative we're developing to make land ownership a real possibility for more BIPOC farmers - and I can't stress enough how excited we are about what's in store. For now, the following highlights of our September work offer a sneak peek.

That said... If BIPOC land access resonates with you and your curiosity is piqued, no need to wait for our big reveal. Reach out to us here to learn more about our budding initiative.
Best regards from the not-so-new New Girl,

*Ashley Appolon*
*Communications and Outreach Coordinator*

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**SUPPORTING A FOOD "OASIS"**

We talk a lot about building more equitable and regenerative foodsheds. But how does that translate from words on a page to genuine action? As they say, **the proof is in the pudding, and we are serving up.**

*Foodshed Capital joined [Agrarian Trust](#) and a coalition of partners to provide the [Central Virginia Agrarian Commons](#) the capital needed to secure a 99-year lease for 5 acres of urban farmland in Petersburg, VA. This purchase ensures that **the land will never be bought or sold again and will remain protected** with regeneratively managed food production.*

*Project Managers [Tyrone Cherry III](#) and [Duron Chavis](#) will overlook the construction of [Petersburg Oasis CommUNITY Farm](#) - the "oasis" stands in contrast to the "food desert" title that can too often be attached to urban neighborhoods.*
Programming will include opportunities for nearby students to grow and enjoy nutritious food from the farm, and space for beginner farmers to learn and experiment with various growing methods.

Land security is a vital first step in bringing this oasis to life, and we're so excited to see what this team builds!

Foodshed Capital Team, Board of Directors Treasurer
Harrison Roday, and Tyrone Cherry III

NEW PARTNERSHIP COMES TO LIFE

In May 2022, Foodshed Capital partnered with Adirondack North Country Association to develop the SOIL Loan Fund, which is dedicated to getting zero-cost capital into the hands of small farmers in northern New York State.

We are happy to announce the fund's first recipient is Della Terra Farm, a small-scale veggie and compost business located on 5 acres in Lewis County, NY. Owner Julian Mangano is realizing his long-time vision of owning a farm business that is truly self-sustaining. With a focus on nutrient-dense produce and clean, chemical-free compost, Della Terra is true to its name, which translates to "of the Earth."

Julian is the first SOIL Loan Fund, but he will not be the last. Stay tuned for news of new recipients!
We started our journey with Soil and Shadow's Nikki Silvestri in July by surveying a spectrum of our stakeholders, including our staff and board members, to get a perspective on how we address DEI. Soil and Shadow's expertise lies in helping non-profit leaders and teams thrive through consulting, training, and coaching.

This month we had the opportunity to meet as a team and review our goals and action plans to move forward. Below are the key goals we addressed:

- Align FoodCap's work with DEI in a way that's **tangible, meaningful, and not performative**, with a particular emphasis on leadership, governance, and structure;
- **Pay attention to the complexity of debt for vulnerable communities** and the need for networks of support in that process; and
- **Build new pathways** for integration of information that may be uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

We are excited to have the opportunity to learn from the Soil and Shadow team and are working together to implement their recommendations into our work.

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

*People of color now own less than 1% of private rural land* in the US, and most funding is disproportionately targeted to large scale, conventional farm operations.

**Foodshed Capital is developing a new initiative to help tip the scale** in favor of small-scale, regenerative, BIPOC-led farm operations.
Interested in helping us make land ownership a possibility for BIPOC farmers?

GIVE HERE

Our Contact Information
* {{Organization Name}}*
* {{Organization Address}}*
* {{Organization Phone}}*
* {{Organization Website}}*

* {{Unsubscribe}}*