



NOVEMBER 2023



\*{{First Name}}\*,

I got a funny note last month from a newsletter reader who was like, "Your team seems cool and conferences are fun, but **can we get back to the farmer updates please?**" I'm paraphrasing, but point taken :)

Foodshed Capital didn't close any new loans in November, but we got *a lot* of funding out the door to farmers in September and have been doling out little highlights on [our social media](#) since. Scroll on down for a couple more. **The farmers we support are truly laying the groundwork for a better food system and we are consistently humbled by what they're building.** Read up on their work! Follow them! Buy their stuff!

**ICYMI, Foodshed Capital surpassed \$1 million in annual lending for the first time**, and we did it by the end of September. After a fall filled with planning and refining, our team is **putting the finishing touches on our updated loan program, outlining a deeper program of business support, and rounding the bend on hiring someone wonderful to head it up.** By January we'll be ready to dive into the queue of applications and work with farmers more effectively than ever.

Speaking of better support, **attention: Virginia-based BIPOC farmers!** We cooked up a plan with **American Farmland Trust's Regenerate Virginia** team to provide **FREE accounting software subscriptions to BIPOC farmers in Virginia.** Find details below, as well as news of a USDA funding opportunity that makes it easier to get local food into schools.

This wouldn't be a FoodCap newsletter without some musing, so I'll share something that occurred to me this month. In the regenerative agriculture space (if I can flip a classic metaphor), **there's a lot of focus on the forest** (transition the biggest farms as fast as possible! sequester all the carbon!), **and not quite enough on the trees** (young farmer training! BIPOC-centric training! affordable capital! land tenure!).

**The need for a better food system is urgent, but we must focus as much energy on supporting small-scale, diverse, and diversified farmers as we do on transitioning large-scale crop farmers.** We must ensure there's another generation of farmers ready to take over with the skills, resources, and networks to provide nutrient-dense, culturally appropriate food for their communities. **We must create the necessary conditions for everyone to succeed if we are seeking genuine food system transformation.**

What we *do* at Foodshed Capital is capital access and business support. **What we're *Doing* is creating the conditions for regenerative agriculture to succeed.** Thank you all for helping us make this possible—as I never tire of saying, it'll take all of us.

With gratitude,



## CAPITAL IN THE FIELD



## FARMER JAWN



Chances are good you're already familiar with **Farmer Jawn**. Owner Christa Barfield has been making waves since she came on the scene in 2018. With a background in healthcare, she got started with an **urban farm and education program focused on eliminating food deserts, increasing awareness of nutrition and food justice, and training emerging Black farmers in Philadelphia.**

Now, she's expanded to 128 acres in West Chester, PA, where she manages Farmer Jawn's organic produce farm, provides ongoing training and educational programming, and sells farm produce and goods from local makers in a newly renovated retail storefront.

Put simply, **Farmer Jawn is building a model of **Regenerative Organic** food production *by and for* underserved communities.**

**Christa reached out to us this year seeking capital to renovate the retail store and cashflow the first round of inventory.** Our team worked closely with her to clean up financials and help develop the documents to apply for financing. With ongoing support from an outside bookkeeper, we're continuing to assist Christa in navigating the slog that is the Pennsylvania tax system.

**Foodshed Capital is so proud to have provided every hour of business support to Farmer Jawn completely free of charge, and to have extended a 0% interest loan to make her expansion possible.**

When farmers like Christa have the drive and know-how to do the incredibly challenging work of producing food, **success hinges on access to affordable capital.** Non-extractive 0% financing made it possible for Christa to bring her vision to life.



## CAPITAL IN THE FIELD



## WADDLE OM FARM





An increasing percentage of our loan portfolio goes toward **bridge funding**, meaning we provide loans to farmers who have received grant funding for new infrastructure but must front the costs to complete the project before they can be reimbursed for it.

This was the case for **Waddle Om Farm**, a holistic livestock and herbal farm in **Scottsville, VA** run by **Daniel and Shankari Goldstein**. They specialize in raising sheep and have recently built out an herbal apothecary for homegrown teas and value-added products.

With 2.7 acres in cultivation and 257 acres for grazing, **Waddle Om is planting the roots for a deeper, ancestral connection with the land**. Shankari and Dan see farming as more than planting seeds and collecting the harvest. With backgrounds in yoga, environmental activism, racial justice, animal and soil science, and carpentry, they are driven to heal humans' relationship to the land as well as the land itself.

Although farmers can get grants to cover the costs of new infrastructure, public funds are too often only available to those who have the time to complete lengthy applications and the cashflow or connections to front the money. **FoodCap helped Waddle Om unlock grant funding to install a new well, fencing, and livestock waterers through a 0% interest loan to cover up-front costs**. Now, they're continuing to provide the best possible care for their livestock while managing impact and building soil fertility.



ATTN:  
FARMERS



RESOURCES  
+ FUNDING

1.

## FREE QUICKBOOKS

We've secured funding through a **partnership with American Farmland Trust** to help them build on the success of the Regenerate Virginia program through support for BIPOC farmers.

If you're a BIPOC farmer in Virginia interested in setting up accounting software for your business but not sure how to cover the cost, please reach out! We can cover your subscription for a year (or more!) and support you in getting it set up.

The program launches in January—[email me at erica@foodcap.org](mailto:erica@foodcap.org) to learn more.

2.

## GRANT FUNDING FOR FARM-TO-SCHOOL

If you're a farmer, non-profit, or educational organization working to link kids with food and farming, you may be eligible for the **USDA 2024 Farm to School Grant Program**.

The program provides **grant funding for activities that get local food into school cafeterias, develop campus gardens, and support agricultural education in a variety of forms.**

\$12 million of funding is available with awards up to \$500,000. Applications are due January 12th, 2024. [Find more info and guidance on applying here.](#)

PLEASE



SUPPORT  
OUR WORK

### We didn't ask you to support on Giving Tuesday...

Because you can support any time. Including right now!

**Gifts of all sizes are how we make 0% interest loans and zero-cost business support possible for farmers like Christa, Shankari, and Dan.**

Please consider making a gift today.

Donate Now



#### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
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