



MARCH 2024

Hi ***{{First Name}}***,

I have to start by giving it up for the Foodshed Capital lending team. **With nearly a quarter million out the door in the first quarter and another almost \$200,000 to be deployed** in the next couple weeks, Indy, Emily, and Ashley have been taking this well-oiled lending machine to new heights.

I'm so proud to share a couple **highlights of the regenerative farmers we supported in March, and to offer up some additional resources that might serve them.** We also had the joy of participating in the [American Farmland Trust Women for the Land](#) learning circle - read on for thoughts from our team about this nourishing experience with other women in food.

As we gear up for the second quarter, we're planning trips to **Atlanta** to meet new partners at [The Conservation Fund's Working Farms Fund](#), and to **Puerto Rico**, where we're developing a framework for a micro-loan program with [Monte Azul Foundation](#). **You'll**

also find us at the [National Farm Viability Conference](#) at the end of April - I hope we'll see many of you there!

Thanks to all of you for your **financial gifts** which make our work possible, for your metaphorical high fives, and for your direct encouragement every month. We're so grateful to be in community with so many folks who share our passion for **economic equity, environmental regeneration, and community resilience**.

With gratitude,

Erica Hellen
Director of Strategy & Comms.



CAPITAL IN THE FIELD



Dodo Farms // Howard County, Maryland

Dodo Farms is a Maryland-based, immigrant-owned, and Certified Naturally Grown farm producing diversified veggies and herbs for loyal customers in DC and Maryland. In

March, FoodCap proudly supported them with a second round of 0% interest financing as they transition to their brand new, forever(!) farmland.

Co-owned by Temitope (Tope) Fajingbesi and Niyi Balogun, **the farm is committed to practices that build soil health**, encouraging biologically diverse soil ecosystems through use of compost, cover cropping and green manure, and seasonal crop rotation.

Foodshed Capital worked closely with Dodo and colleagues at [Dirt Capital Partners](#) over the course of 2023 to be a resource as they sought out the perfect piece of land in a region where land prices make it nearly impossible for small-scale farmers to purchase land.

Our first 0% interest loan to Dodo in 2022 allowed them to purchase an on-farm vehicle to lighten the load of harvest and daily farm chores on the leased land where Dodo Farms was born. Now, with **the unmatched security and autonomy that comes with land ownership**, Dodo is wasting no time putting this second round of 0% financing from FoodCap to work as they build deer fencing, install drip irrigation, and get seedlings in the ground for the 2024 growing season.



Happily Natural Day // Richmond, Virginia

Happily Natural Day (HND) was founded in Richmond, Virginia in 2003 as an annual African centered festival dedicated to holistic health wellness and social change. In 2008, the

organization began **working with Black farmers to address the issue of food insecurity in formerly redlined neighborhoods**. That work expanded in 2012, when Happily Natural began **transforming vacant lots into urban gardens and green spaces**.

Executive Director Duron Chavis is an urban farmer, holistic health and wellness advocate, vocal change-maker, and all around mover-n-shaker who is dedicated to reparative justice and building thriving BIPOC food systems.

With a focus on building power for Black and brown communities, the organization is quite literally **cultivating a new generation of BIPOC farmers through its [Central Virginia Urban Farming Fellowship](#)**, and increasing local food access through the multiple urban farms it helps manage.

A 0% interest bridge loan will help HND front the costs of an NRCS high tunnel to extend the growing season at Sankofa Community Orchard, a five-acre green space dedicated to food justice and climate resiliency that is home to 80 fruit trees in Richmond's Southside.



FARMER RESOURCES



Minimize Overwhelm, Maximize Return:

Tax Readiness for Regenerative Farmers
Tuesday, April 9th at 12-1pm ET (or)
Wednesday, April 10th at 6-7pm ET



Free Farm Tax Workshop

Join Foodshed Capital for either of two **identical free workshops for existing or early-stage farmers to help minimize the overwhelm of tax preparation**. We'll be joined by Andy Gilbert, a farmer, financial consultant with [NY Farm Net](#), and expert farm tax preparer with decades of experience.

**Tuesday April 9th, 12-1pm ET (or)
Wednesday April 10th, 6-7pm ET**

We'll provide an overview of tax terminology, cover the most relevant forms and documents farmers need to have ready, and discuss a timeline of action items that should take place throughout the year so farmers are ready to go at tax time.

Please share with any farmers in your network who may be interested! **Learn more and register here:**

Register



Farmer Grant Opportunity

Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, migrant, and refugee farmers are encouraged to apply for this annual micro-grant program offered by [Sky High Farm](#) and a team of BIPOC advisors.

The program is targeted to farmers who face the most profound barriers in accessing land, acquiring essential farming tools and equipment, gaining experience and formal education around sustainable farming practices, and accessing wages from farming that support stable housing and basic human needs.

Max Grant Amount: \$25,000

Deadline to Apply: 4/22/24

Learn more and apply here:

Apply



American Farmland Trust Women for the Land Learning Circle

These [learning circles](#) are dedicated to building power among women in agricultural spaces, and it was an honor to be invited to convene with this inspiring group of women for second year. From our team:

"It was truly a comforting space to be in. What made it feel so warm and inviting was the opportunity to hear the cohort members' stories, visions, and excitement to share resources and build connections. I have no doubt that this generation of women farmers are going to be a force for good within local food systems."

PLEASE: SUPPORT
OUR WORK

We're excited to share a couple new ways you can support Foodshed Capital!

We now also accept **stock donations**, as well as **IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions**.

Learn more about the various ways you can support by clicking here:

Support Our Work



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

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