



## NEWS & UPDATES JULY 2023



\*{{First Name}}\*,

Please forgive me this incredibly on-the-nose media reference, but you can't deny it: we're in the thick of **one wet, hot American summer**.

From inundated fields and extreme crop loss, to splitting tomatoes, moldy squash, endless mud and hoof rot, and high temps that lead equipment failure and make working in the middle of the day incredibly dangerous... **this is food production in a changing climate**.

This may be a newsletter, but these weather extremes are not exactly *news*. In fact, in response to new research emphatically attributing these weather changes to human-caused climate change, **one scientist went so far as to say this is all pretty "boring."** "From a scientific point of view, there is nothing new because we have known this for a long time, and we see exactly what we expected to see," said Dr. Friederike Otto of Imperial College London, who was involved with the research.

**When it comes to extreme weather, farmers are on the front lines** with no choice but to respond and adapt. Whether it's to replace broken equipment or repair infrastructure, to relocate areas of production so they are out of risk zones, or to significantly pivot production to a less vulnerable enterprise, meaningful shifts can be tricky to achieve in a pinch. Even band-aid solutions can be expensive and time-consuming, and **for farmers of color, accessing essential resources is even more difficult**.

**But with better access to strategic business advice and flexible capital, farmers can be nimble and responsive to extreme events.** Those two critical needs are at the heart of Foodshed Capital's mission and why we've been digging deep over the last month to design a more robust program of farmer support to balance our focus on capital access. **With more comprehensive support around strategic business planning, financial literacy, bookkeeping, and marketing, farmers will be more resilient** and more responsive as they weather the storms that come.

We're forging new partnerships and seeking new funding specifically to bolster this work and will be sharing more about new programming in the next couple months—stay tuned!

**Wherever you are, I hope you're enjoying a respite from extremes.** I'm pleased to share a few highlights of FoodCap's July, and thanks as always for your support which makes all our work possible.

Stay cool,

*Erica Hellen*  
Director of Strategy & Comms.





**Acres4Change (A4C)** is a non-profit stewardship program, mushroom farm, and ethnic food garden in Baltimore, MD. Pertula George-Redd founded A4C in November 2020 in response to the growing racial wealth disparities in the US and the continuing history of Black land loss.

Acres4Change trains its "stewards" in food production as well as legal assistance, mentoring, and business development. **"We foster a more harmonious society by promoting education, food sovereignty, and property ownership while bringing diverse individuals together to challenge wealth inequality, food insecurity, and systemic racism,"** George-Redd says.

In 2022, A4C received a SARE grant which provided reimbursable funding to repurpose a shipping container into a mushroom cultivation facility. However, grant funding was not actually received when expected, creating an operational lag. This month, **Foodshed Capital was proud to support A4C with a 0% loan to fill the funding gap.**

WELCOME!



NEW BOARD  
MEMBER



We're so pleased to welcome **Johnette Richardson** to the **Foodshed Capital Board of Directors!**

Mrs. Richardson is currently the **Chief Operating Officer for Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore**, a community development financial institution (CDFI) that sparks renewed vitality in neighborhoods by **engaging community partners, increasing sustainable homeownership, and advancing innovative capital solutions.** Among numerous accolades, Mrs. Richardson is a frequent local and national speaker on topics related to neighborhood revitalization and community economic development, and has a master's degree in business administration.

With her leadership experience in an organization equally focused on mission-driven lending and financial literacy, she brings a wealth of insights to our board. **Welcome, Johnette!**

OUT+ABOUT



SILLER  
POLLINATOR CO.





**Two newsletter mentions in a row? You know they're up to good things at [Siller Pollinator Company](#)!**

Recently, proprietor Allison Siller shared with us that "the "spring fling" is over. The bees have settled into the "summer slump" and the "dearth" as beekeepers call it. Swarming is over/suppressed. **[The Siller Team has] pulled honey off of every hive that had excess spring honey to offer** (new hives don't have extra in the spring). The hives are mercifully stable right now. So - we turn our attention to mite control and preparing the hives for the fall."

Last week after our in-person strategy meeting, our lending team paid a visit to Siller's new brick-and-mortar beekeeping supply shop and headquarters in Charlottesville, VA to catch up with Allison and lend a hand. **We learned the delicate art of uncapping frames of honey for extraction and helped bottle almost ten gallons of honey** for Siller's hive management customers. Thanks for having us, Allison!



Executive Director Michael Reilly participated in a panel discussion last week hosted by [Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders](#), a membership organization with a mission to **amplify the impact of philanthropic and investment communities in support of just and sustainable food and agriculture systems.**

With roughly 35 people in attendance, Michael contributed to the conversation by discussing the ways we cultivate success for BIPOC farmers through better access to capital and resources. He also touched on our recent work with the [LND Initiative](#) to highlight the progress and connections we made, and to **encourage funders to continue pursuing completely non-extractive avenues for land ownership for BIPOC farmers.**

ATTN: FARMERS



FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITY





**Accelerating Appalachia and partners awarded \$20 million from USDA-NRCS to incentivize farmers in climate-smart practices**

Are you a farmer in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, southeastern Ohio, or northern Georgia **looking to adopt or expand regenerative (climate-smart) agriculture practices?**

**Our friends at Accelerating Appalachia recently received grant funding to provide direct financial incentives to farmers** to cover regenerative transition costs. **(And ICYMI, we provided bridge funding to help them launch right away ahead of receiving their funds.)**

If you're interested in learning more about the program, they are gathering farmer contact information now ahead of the application release later this year. **More info here:**

[Learn More](#)



**SUPPORT  
OUR WORK**



We've said it before and we'll say it again:  
**our work is only possible with your financial support.**

[In 2023 alone, our team has closed nearly \\$700,000 of low- and 0% interest loans.](#)  
[We've provided 375 hours of individual, 1:1 business support.](#)  
And it's making a real difference for farmers.

**Will you help us build resilient, equitable food systems for all?**

[Support Now](#)



**Our Contact Information**

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
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