CRISIS AND RESILIENCE: FARMERS BUILDING A NEW FOOD FUTURE

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

JANUARY 14-16, 2021

Holding Onto Each Other
By Erik Darm, Grand Prize Winner,
Future Harvest’s Grow, Eat, Shoot Photo Contest
Farmers and Friends,

Food system breakdown. Violent racism. A surging and resurging pandemic. It felt like 2020 was screaming at us: Time for change, BIG change! But how? Who? If we’ve learned anything, it’s that our problems are tough and interwoven — and so must be our solutions. Like the bees in this year’s winning cover photo: We cannot go it alone.

Resilience in the face of such crises means we have to work together. A farmer in the hinterlands still depends on a larger system of actors to get product to market. We can’t just smile racism away. We won’t beat COVID without safe production and distribution along the entire food chain. We are all part of this web, depending on each other for our health, livelihoods, and a just society.

Your farmer elders knew this when they created this organization, Future Harvest. You know it now.

Facing an uncertain 2021, it’s more important than ever that we learn, share, and act – together. And it all begins with this conference.

Grow together. Saturday Keynoter Chris Newman will take us out of our individualist silos and push us to think about farming cooperatively to beat the trials of going it alone. Opening keynoter Tope Fajingbaisi will shine a light on how agriculture has been, and can be again, a path to a better society.

Learn from each other. It starts with our usual spectacular collection of community wisdom. This time you can listen to it all via recordings (one advantage of a virtual conference)! And the learning continues when the conference is over: field school events and trainings directed at farmers of every level of experience, all year.

Talk to each other. Our country has a history of robbing black, brown, and indigenous people of their land, even as recently as these last 50 years. Add redlining to remove people of color from valuable property ownership, and with that, access to grocers now locating in white neighborhoods. White people must act to repair this harm, and it starts by talking to each other. Join an afternoon clinic focused on race during the conference afternoon.

Get creative together. Let us not squander a crisis. When grocery stores are empty and there’s a run on seed companies, how will we be ready? Attend the membership meeting and Resilient, Crisis-Ready workshop to share your ideas and energy for re-shaping our food system.

Stand together. This coming year, we’ll be talking to decision makers about solutions. We’ll need your voice in the chorus. Sign up for our e-blasts for notifications.

It is sad we can’t gather to greet old friends and new, to share food, drinks, and stories with friends and strangers. But we can still listen and share, and for once, we can do this conference in our cozy slippers! FOCUS—don’t listen to workshops while feeding the chickens. We must heed the lessons we have learned and ready ourselves to make big change. Next year, may we meet again for real, face to face, shoulder to shoulder.
Thank you to everyone who entered our annual Grow, Eat, Shoot! Photo Contest Congratulations to our first place winner, Erik Darn for his photo, “Holding Onto Each Other” featured on the program cover.

Second Place (Facing Page): “#BlackExcellence” by Farmer Chippy (Richie Francis)

Third Place: It's a tie! “I Got It From My Mama” by Maryn Jordan “My Flower Twin!” by Angela French

2021 Conference Committee
Amy Crane, Barren Rogers, Cathy Tippett, Cristina Flores, Denzel Mitchell, Henriette den Ouden, Hu Newcomb, Kimberly Raikes, Lindsay Smith, Lisa Duff, Meghan Ochot, Mary Kathryn (MK) Barnett, Meredith Epstein, Natasha Blair, Nathan Bergdoll, Novin Dawson, Stephanie Ritchie, Thadnous Cook, Toby Hagerott, Tom Croghan.

Future Harvest Board of Directors
Executive Committee: Carrie Cochran Vaughn, Clagett Farm, President. Steven Jones, Eastern Shore Agriculture Sustains, Vice President. Amy Crane, Market Links, Secretary. Tope Fajingbesi, Dodo Farms and UMD IAA, Treasurer.


Future Harvest Staff
Dena Leibman, Executive Director; Namh Shortt, Field School Director; Sarah Sone, Beginner Farmer Training Program Director; Carole Barnard, Membership and Donor Outreach Manager; Carolina Sella, Field Program Manager; Deb Dramby, Communications Manager; Gail Taylor, Conference Manager; Laurie Savage, Administrative Assistant and Grants Manager; Lisa Garfield, Research Manager; Michelle Strobel, Information Technology; Shaun Beaver, Virtual Conference Tech Support; Joanna Winkler, Beginner Farmer Training Program; Vanessa Finney, Bookkeeper; Cathy Tippett, Beginner Farmer Training Program Founder, Advisor, and Volunteer; Aleya Fraser, Food Safety and Go Grassfed Consultant.

Interactive Lunch and Cocktail Contributors
Denzel Mitchell, Sabine Jeanty, Tattiana Aqeel, Spike Gjerde, Hex Farms, Catoctin Creek Grow, Eat, Shoot! 2020 Photo Contest Judges
Lisa Metzger, Molly Peterson, Edwin Remsberg

Thanks To Our Track Sponsors:

BEGINNING FARMING
BUSINESS OF FARMING
ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, & POLICY
REGENERATIVE AG
CROP PRODUCTION
GRASSFED MEAT & DAIRY
FRESHFARM
**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH**
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Owning Your Own Land: Resources and Mentorship
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Online Sales Platforms Winners and Losers: Farmers' Review
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Predator Protection for Livestock and Poultry
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Stronger Together: Cooperative Farming Models
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: BIPOC Farmer Networking Happy Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Opening Keynote: Growing a New World - Tope Fajingbesi
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Session I
  - Part- to Full-Time Farming: Can You Make It Work?
  - Challenges When Transitioning to Organic - A Grain Case Study
  - Weed Control: The Right Tool For the Right Job
  - Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Chesapeake Food System
  - What You REALLY Need to Know About Electric Fences
  - Cover Cropping and Reducing Tillage Within Annual Vegetable Production
- 11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Session II
  - Herbal Self-Care for Farmers
  - Pickles, Potatoes, and Pesto: Bridging Customers and Farmers During COVID
  - Record-Keeping and Crop-Planning with Josh Volk from Slow Hand Farm
  - Predator Protection for Livestock and Poultry
  - The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production
  - Making Even Better Compost
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Interactive Lunch and Music

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH**
- 8:00 am - 8:45 am: Membership Meeting
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Keynote Speaker: The Next Agriculture Economy - Chris Newman
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Session III
  - Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers
  - To Scale Up or Scale Down -- That's the Question
  - Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio
  - We're Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic
  - The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production
  - Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Interactive Lunch and Music

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH**
- 8:00 am - 8:45 am: Membership Meeting
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Keynote Speaker: The Next Agriculture Economy - Chris Newman
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Session III
  - Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers
  - To Scale Up or Scale Down -- That's the Question
  - Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio
  - We're Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic
  - The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production
  - Making Even Better Compost
- 11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Session IV
  - Irrigation Systems for the Small, Mixed Vegetable Farm
  - Hand-Scale Cover Cropping
  - Feeding the Fight: Black Farms, Communities, and How CSA's Can Get Political
  - Lessons Learned From Adopting and Grazing Summer Annuals
  - Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Interactive Lunch and Music

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH**
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Owning Your Own Land: Resources and Mentorship
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Online Sales Platforms Winners and Losers: Farmers' Review
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Predator Protection for Livestock and Poultry
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Pre-Conference Intensive: Stronger Together: Cooperative Farming Models
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: BIPOC Farmer Networking Happy Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Opening Keynote: Growing a New World - Tope Fajingbesi
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Session I
  - Part- to Full-Time Farming: Can You Make It Work?
  - Challenges When Transitioning to Organic - A Grain Case Study
  - Weed Control: The Right Tool For the Right Job
  - Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Chesapeake Food System
  - What You REALLY Need to Know About Electric Fences
  - Cover Cropping and Reducing Tillage Within Annual Vegetable Production
- 11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Session II
  - Herbal Self-Care for Farmers
  - Pickles, Potatoes, and Pesto: Bridging Customers and Farmers During COVID
  - Record-Keeping and Crop-Planning with Josh Volk from Slow Hand Farm
  - Predator Protection for Livestock and Poultry
  - The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production
  - Making Even Better Compost
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Interactive Lunch and Music

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH**
- 8:00 am - 8:45 am: Membership Meeting
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Keynote Speaker: The Next Agriculture Economy - Chris Newman
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am: Session III
  - Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers
  - To Scale Up or Scale Down -- That's the Question
  - Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio
  - We're Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic
  - The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production
  - Making Even Better Compost
- 11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Session IV
  - Irrigation Systems for the Small, Mixed Vegetable Farm
  - Hand-Scale Cover Cropping
  - Feeding the Fight: Black Farms, Communities, and How CSA's Can Get Political
  - Lessons Learned From Adopting and Grazing Summer Annuals
  - Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: Interactive Lunch and Music
THURSDAY

BIPOC Farmer Networking Happy Hour
Thursday January 14, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

FRIDAY

Tope Fajingbesi: Dodo Farms, Author, UMD-Institute of Applied Agriculture Lecturer, and CPA

Growing A New World
Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente
Friday January 15, 9:15 am - 9:45 am

Agriculture is often viewed simply as an economic activity. To millions of people and communities around the world, agriculture has been, is, and will continue to mean, so much more. Through stories and historical examples, Tope will speak about the critical role farming has played in healing, growing humans, shaping culture, and helping communities overcome adversity, and call on all of us to rise up and explore ways we can use farming to heal our communities during this difficult time in US history.

FRIDAY INTERACTIVE LUNCH
Sponsored by Brendan Iribe
Friday January 15, 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Long-time collaborators in the kitchen (and in the field!) Denzel Mitchell and Spike Gjerde are cooking up a special surprise for our Friday lunch. We all regret that we cannot partake in samples of their creation. However, the saving grace is that we will learn some of their secrets during this live demo. Conference attendees will receive the recipe in the virtual conference app to cook alongside at home.

FRIDAY AWARDS AND TOAST
Sponsored by Prince Charitable Trusts
Friday January 15, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

Two time-honored traditions meet on one screen this year: our farmer awards event and a (now virtual) toast and Executive Director selfie! Annually at our conference, Farmer of the Foodshed awards are presented to committee-selected farmers who are innovative, profitable, and engaged with the local farm community. They are environmental stewards who have shown longevity and continue to invest in their soil health; and share that knowledge with the next generation of farmers. They are the farmers that our newer farmers aspire to be, and we are thrilled to recognize their contributions with this award. The awardees will receive a special toast this year with a custom cocktail collaboration thanks to Catoctin Creek Distillery and Hex Ferments. Follow the cocktail or mocktail recipe at home and “cheers” your camera at the same time while our Executive Director takes her annual, traditional selfie - this time with the computer screen! This will be a moment that will not easily be forgotten as we join together yet apart as a community.

SATURDAY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday January 16, 8:00 - 8:45 am
Share your ideas for the organization and Board Member voting

Chris Newman, Farmer, Writer, Activist. Sylvanagua Farms

The Next Agriculture Economy
Sponsored by Agua Fund
Saturday January 16, 9:15 - 9:45 am

The future of farming in America faces broad, systemic challenges, including access to land, markets, and capital; processing infrastructure; distribution; farm succession; farmworker exploitation and quality of life; land-use change; and environmental degradation. Our settler/colonial culture, unfortunately, with its reverence of the individual, has largely atomized the discussion to be about farms and consumer behavior rather than systemic change. This has led to a sustainable agriculture movement that’s big on cultural capital but small on impact. In this keynote, Chris will discuss an emerging design for an integrated, BIPOC-led food system in the Chesapeake Bay region that creates the necessary conditions for truly thriving farms, communities, and the environment.

SATURDAY INTERACTIVE LUNCH
Sponsored by iHeart Radio
Saturday January 16, 12:30 - 1:00 pm

Chef Sabine Jearnly will guide us through a cooking demo to prepare a locally sourced dish featuring winter squash, root vegetables and mushrooms. The stylish and talented Chef Sabine will be graced with the presence of singer/songwriter/farmer Tattiana Aqeel who will add a freedom-themed musical soundtrack. If you are familiar with their collaborative project, the Garden Concert Series (GCS), you won’t want to miss this one and only GCS edition during this year of pivots where even garden concerts can be virtual.
CRISIS AND RESILIENCE: FARMERS BUILDING A NEW FOOD FUTURE

FEATURED EXHIBITORS

HARVIE
- Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)
- The Mill (www.themillstores.com)

EXHIBITORS

- Acres of Ancestry/Black Agrarian Fund
- A Growing Culture
- Catoctin Creek
- Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance
- Feed Soil
- Fertrell
- Go Grassfed
- HEX Ferments
- LEAD MD
- Liz Reitz - marketing consultation
- Local Food Marketplace, Inc.
- Market Link
- Million Acre Challenge (MAC)
- MAC Tool Share
- Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)
- Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture
- Redmond Environmental Council
- University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA)
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
- University of Maryland Extension - Business Coaching
- USDA FSA Farm Loan Program

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, JAN 14: PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Owning Your Own Land: Resources and Mentorship

Many people say that finding land is the single biggest barrier to growing the next generation of farmers. While there are many ways to go about finding and accessing land, this workshop will focus on two paths to long-term land tenure: land purchase and long-term leases, with the majority of the time spent guiding participants through the process of finding and purchasing farmland. A panel of new landowners will share and answer questions about their journeys, and give frank feedback on the various support programs available. Representatives from FSA, MARIBDCO, and Farm Credit will talk about their respective programs and answer questions. Part I: Buying Farmland: Adrienne and Jason Granston, Cusheeba Earth Farm, VA; Ann Sutton, Deep Roots Farm, MD; Becky Seward, Red Tree Farmstead, MD; Emmda Nagy, Clean Valley Farm, MD; Bryan Alexander and Joanna Winkler, Good Dog Farm, MD; Steve McHenry, MARIBDCO; Amy Rowe, Farm Credit; Leah Petersen, Farm Loan Specialist. Part II: Long-term Leases and Preservation: Rachel Bynum and Eric Plaksin, Waterpenny Farm, VA; Michael Kane, Piedmont Environmental Council, VA

Online Sales Platforms Winners and Losers: Farmers’ Review

Come learn about the variety of online sales platforms available to farmers. We’ll talk about which ones work well in local markets, explore best practices, and learn about legal considerations when direct marketing products. This pre-conference session includes small breakout sessions led by our farmer experts so you can share your experiences, too. Considering Harvie? Feeling comfortable with your DIY setup? Not sure whether to use Weebly, Square, or Squarespace? This is the session for you! (Andrea Davis-Cenita, Quarter Acre Farm, MD; Mary Ackley, Little Wild Things Farm, DC; Sarah Rider, Flying Plow Farm, MD; Sarah Everhart, USDA-ALEI; Nick Stavely, Derel Farmer, and Pierre Grahn, FRESHFARM Markets.)

Predator Protection for Livestock and Poultry

Learn from renowned predator protection expert and author Jan Dohner about how to keep your livestock and poultry safe from large and small predators, roaming dogs, and birds of prey. The first portion of the workshop will cover how to perform an assessment of potential threats, identify predator damage, and use practical prevention strategies such as predator-proof fencing, livestock guardians, secure housing, good husbandry, and fright techniques. The remainder of the workshop will delve deeper into the fundamentals of using guard dogs and other techniques to keep your livestock safe. (Jan Dohner, Expert and Author)

Stronger Together: Cooperative Farming Models

Farmer cooperatives are nothing new, but the recent explosion of interest in all manner of cooperative models is. More small-scale farmers are banding together to gain greater market access and compete with larger operations. Cooperative models range from informal collaborative marketing, multi-farm CSAs, shared accounts, and expertise, and bulk ordering all the way to legally structured, worker-owned business entities. Hear from experts in the field who will give an overview of the various forms of co-ops that are best suited for farming. A panel of farmers will present a broad range of models. Attendees will meet other farmers and producers in the region interested in collaborating. (Dom Hosack, EarthBound Building and Climate Justice Alliance; Andrea Davis-Cenita, Quarter Acre Farm, MD; Mary Ackley, Little Wild Things Farm, DC; Sarah Rider, Flying Plow Farm, MD; Sarah Everhart, USDA-ALEI; Nick Stavely, Derel Farmer, and Pierre Grahn, FRESHFARM Markets.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION I: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Farming</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part- to Full-Time Farming: Can You Make It Work?</strong> With a whole lot of hard work, personal savings, and a little bit of luck, Meghan Ochil and Erik de Guzman scaled their 15-acre hobby farm into a full-time, well-employing, two-acre operation complete with infrastructure, seasonal employees, and robust sales outlets over the course of six years. Hear how the long-term plan, decision-making process, adjustments, pivots, business planning, leveraging of non-farm sources of income, and flexibility helped them on the ever-avoiding farming journey. (Meghan Ochil and Erik de Guzman, Dome Farm, MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business of Farming</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenges When Transitioning to Organic: A Grain Case Study</strong> Transitioning to organic grain production is no easy feat. The 3-year process involves a shift in management practices, equipment, markets, and short-term financial expectations. Join the Great Grains Project team members to learn about their research trials (and tribulations) exploring the most profitable and soil health building rotations during the transition phase. We encourage those interested in local edible grains or transitioning to organic to join the discussion as the team looks for new varieties to add into local grain rotations. (Dr. Roy Welé, Professor of Soil, Environmental Science, and Technology, Department, UMD; Aaron Cooper, Cutfresh Organics, MD; Dove Cavanaugh, San Sunnio Farm, MD; Ian Hertzmark, Migrash Farm, MD; Dr. Nazareno Alaniz, Purple Mountain Organics, MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crop Production</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weed Control: The Right Tool For the Right Job</strong> This panel will delve into weed control on two farms. Hana Newcomb, co-owner and general manager of Potomac Vegetable Farms, Virginia, will discuss mechanical cultivation with tractor implements for a Farmall B, a Farmall Cub, and one Tilmor. Hana will share her experience adapting basket weeders, finger weeder, a Williams tool system, bushhog, and Perfeclta among others into regular use for organic weed control. Josh Volk of Slow Hand Farm will discuss the tool box he uses, how they fit his larger system of weed control on the farm, and how to best use each tool. (Hana Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms, VA; Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm, OR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment, Community, &amp; Policy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Chesapeake Food System</strong> How can we create a regional food system that is more resilient and crisis-ready than what we experienced during this pandemic? That question is at the heart of the new Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Project, which is creating an open-source, available-to-all “RCR” action plan for addressing ill-suited infrastructure, skilled labor shortages, systemic racism, and other obstacles along the seed-to-stomach supply chain. Hear the results to date of our RCR survey, where farmers and other stakeholders have laid out their ideas of necessary changes to our food system. (Caitlin Roberts, Number 1 Sons, VA; Stacey Carlberg, The Farm at Sunnyside, VA; Meghan Ochil, Dome Farm, MD; Neat Slope Produce, MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grassed: Meat &amp; Dairy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What You REALLY Need to Know About Electric Fences</strong> Electric fencing can be a big investment, especially when you don’t know exactly what you need! Join Brad Shae of Pasture Management Systems to learn how to choose between semi-permanent, temporary, and portable systems, posts, rails, netting, and how your wire selection affects your energy choices. More than 50% of our respondents are considering grassing, so let’s talk about how to set up systems. (Brad Shae, Independent Farm Consultant, TN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regenerative Agriculture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cover Cropping and Reducing Tillage Within Annual Vegetable Production</strong> As vegetable farmers, we often spend a lot of time planning and nurturing our cash crops because that is what pays the bills. However, if similar attention is paid to integrating a robust cover crop plan within our rotation, it can greatly benefit the soil health, overall productivity, and long-term income of our farm. We’ll discuss cover crop basics including regionally appropriate species, mixes, timing, and rates for seeding, how to establish and terminate crops at various scales. This workshop will also discuss specific experiences with no-till seeding and planting of vegetable and subsequent cover crops into winter-killed or roller-crimped cover crops. (Casey Gustavson, VA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION II: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Farming</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business of Farming</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crop Production</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment, Community, &amp; Policy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grassed: Meat &amp; Dairy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regenerative Agriculture</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**SCHEDULE: FRIDAY JANUARY 15**
2:00 PM-2:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

Cultivating Conservation: Understanding Opportunities to Access Federal Conservation Programs
This discussion will be an opportunity to ask about, and share your experiences participating in federal USDA conservation programs. University of Maryland Extension agents will offer important tips on how to incorporate best management practices on your farm through voluntary and cost-share programs; and how conservation programs can fit into an overall farm plan. If you are considering implementing conservation practices on the farm or have tips to share with other farmers starting this journey, this roundtable is for you. (Sarah Brown and Kelly Cloos, UMD Extension)

Meet a Loan Officer!
If you have considered or begun the process of applying for a loan, you probably already have some questions. This roundtable discussion will be facilitated by regional loan officers who can help guide you through the process. Visit the USDA Farm Service Agency website in advance to download the application and pursue the loan discovery tool. This Q&A style roundtable may be most helpful to attendees who participated in the pre-conference session “Owning Your Own Land: Resources and Mentorship” but attendance is not a prerequisite. If you have experience using FSA loan programs and want to add your voice to help other farmers navigate the journey, please join us! (Joseph Scott, Farm Loan Chief)

Getting to The Root of it All: Let’s Talk Beets and Carrots
Come learn and share tips for growing great root veggies! Perfect your techniques on two crops with long-term storage capacity and potential to boost your winter market sales. Sometimes understanding what didn’t work is as helpful as what did! Join Lisa Duff, owner of Oak Spring Farm, and other roundtable participants to glean valuable ideas and lessons learned. (Lisa Duff, Oak Spring Farm, MD)

CSA Roundtable: Reflecting on 2020
We have a lot to discuss! We’ll reflect on the year in terms of profitability, increased consumer demand for local food, and member retention. We’ll talk about what kind of support CSA farmers want, equitably in the marketplace, how different farms fare in the changing landscape, and what a more equitable marketplace would look like. And we’ll consider: Is the cooperative model the way to go? (Sarit Ziegler, West Michigan Growers Group and CSA-Innovation Network)

White Alleys Caucus
This session is designed for White people interested in learning about affinity group space to better process and understand racial inequity. We’ll talk about what kind of support CSA farmers want, equitably in the marketplace, how different farms fare in the changing landscape, and what a more equitable marketplace would look like. And we’ll consider: Is the cooperative model the way to go? (Sarit Ziegler, West Michigan Growers Group and CSA-Innovation Network)

Reading Your Soil Samples and Creating Nutrient Management Plans
Bring your soil tests and questions or come and share your expertise during this roundtable discussion of all things soil. Lisa Garfield, farmer vegetable farmer and Million Acre Challenge Manager for Future Harvest, will be on hand to listen, help, and talk about the various ways to observe and measure soil health and advise on how to use that information to make practical management decisions on your farm. (Lisa Garfield, Future Harvest and Million Acre Challenge)

YEAR-ROUND LEARNING, ON-FARM AND VIRTUAL

Visit www.futureharvest.org/feedthed-field-school to learn more about our upcoming events in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

FUTURE HARVEST BULLETIN BOARD & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Did you know that our website is home to a Community Calendar and Bulletin Board where anyone can post about job openings, land opportunities, farm-focused events, workshops, equipment sales and more? For free! Submit your listings online or email deb@futureharvest.org

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

FUTURE HARVEST BULLETIN BOARD & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Did you know that our website is home to a Community Calendar and Bulletin Board where anyone can post about job openings, land opportunities, farm-focused events, workshops, equipment sales and more? For free! Submit your listings online or email deb@futureharvest.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA>>>
The Next Agriculture Economy: Chris Newman, Farmer, Writer, Activist. Sylvanaqua Farms

The future of farming in America faces broad, systemic challenges, including access to land, markets, and capital; processing infra-
structure; farm succession; farmer well-being; water and soil quality; and food safety. Our settler/colonial culture, unfortunately, with its reverence of
the individual, has largely atomized the discussion to be about farms and consumer behavior rather than systemic change. This has led to a sustainable agriculture movement that’s big on cultural capital
but small on impact. In this keynote, Chris will discuss an emerging design for an integrated, BIPOC-led food system in the Chesapeake Bay region that creates the necessary conditions for truly thriving farms, communities, and the environment.

Beginner Farming

Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers. Are you looking for a good farm job? Where do you look? How do you start? What questions should you ask during the interview? How do you make sure that your future employer can offer you a welcoming, safe space to learn and be yourself? How do you set personal and professional boundaries while still engaging in the social aspect that is such an important part of each farm? Hear from two farmers who will generously share their experiences, tips, and insight having worked for non-profit and for-profit farms in the Chesapeake region and throughout the United States. (Jen Adado, Agri-cultura Cooperative Network, MI; 3 Postcott-
soras, Delta Ned Farm, MD)

Business of Farming

To Scale Up or Scale Down – That’s the Question. Do you know which crops are making you a profit? What can you
sell more of and where to cut back? This wknd is the making of a great crop plan. Dive into crop and
tools available to see which is really paying the bills on your farm. We’ll look at simple enterprise budgets, as well
as a more dynamic costing tool. We’ll balance that with ideas about volume, scalability, and what investments in tools might
really make a difference to your cost structure. (Brian Polashuk, Mont to Profit)

Crop Production

Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio. Two of Farmer-Chef Casey’s favorite crops to
grow, sell, and eat. While these specialty niche crops may take a little extra care in both growing and marketing, they can
be winners if you do them right. He will discuss growing practices, timing, and varieties along with information on how to
market these crops to farmers market and CSA customers and value-added producers and chefs. (Casey Gustowsky, WV)

Environment, Community, & Policy

We’re Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic. This workshop will provide the interactive process the Farm Alliance of Baltimore used to respond to the emergent needs of its 15 member-farms and six community gardens. The organization used mutual aid and leveraged philanthropic responses to assist with a program that allowed members to not only survive but thrive through the
pandemic. (Alison Morrison, Denzel Mitchell, and Marya Strauss, Farm Alliance of Baltimore)

Grassed: Meat & Dairy

The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production. How much does it really cost to produce a dozen eggs? And to
grow a broiler? If you want to keep your flock aloft for the long haul, these are critical financial considerations. This pre-
sentation will show you – in detail – how to calculate the feed, labor, housing, loss, processing, and other costs. Making sure that your future employer can offer you a welcoming, safe space to learn and be yourself.

Making Even Better Compost. Compost can seem complicated, but it doesn’t need to be. Learn practical and
dynamic ways to approach compost without solely relying on carbon-nitrogen ratio calculations. Instead, see how to view compost
in terms of hot or cold, and wet or dry. Without having to memorize numbers, you will be able to assemble a compost pile
of any number of materials by relying on your own direct observation. Learn about certain kinds of compost that are better
suited to specific soil types. YOU are the tool you need to build even better compost! (Stewart Lundy, Perennial Roots
Farm, VA)

Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet. Small, diversified farms in the mid-Atlantic region have fed us throughout our brief
history – and their numbers are growing. Jo Brant Wills as we discuss how farmers are using regenerative practices and
actually building soil, providing myriad ecosystem benefits for us all, from better rainfall infiltration and reduced erosion to
increased soil carbon, mitigating many of the climate-altering methods practiced today. We’ll talk through this
unique DC-based initiative called The Black Farm CSA, designed by Black food systems leaders Violet King and Zachari Curtis of Dreaming Out Loud. Hear how it started, the challenges they face, and
what they think is the potential of CSA as a tool to organize communities against structural rac-
ism and toward transformative justice. (Violet King and Zachari Curtis, Dreaming Out Loud)

Grassed: Meat & Dairy

Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet. Small, diversified farms in the mid-Atlantic region have fed us throughout our brief
history – and their numbers are growing. Jo Brant Wills as we discuss how farmers are using regenerative practices and
actually building soil, providing myriad ecosystem benefits for us all, from better rainfall infiltration and reduced erosion to
increased soil carbon, mitigating many of the climate-altering methods practiced today. We’ll talk through this
unique DC-based initiative called The Black Farm CSA, designed by Black food systems leaders Violet King and Zachari Curtis of Dreaming Out Loud. Hear how it started, the challenges they face, and
what they think is the potential of CSA as a tool to organize communities against structural rac-
ism and toward transformative justice. (Violet King and Zachari Curtis, Dreaming Out Loud)

Regenerative Agriculture

Feeding the Black Farms, Colonies, and How CSA’s Can Get Political. Throughout American history, Black Americans have been forced to exhibit uncanny creativity and tenacity merely to survive. Take the modern CSA, for instance: Community Supported Agriculture, something taken for granted as a feature of a food system for the healthy and White, actually has origins in the Black Belt South among farmers navigating the economic strangulation of the Jim Crow economy. This workshop will take you through that history and into the inner workings of a unique DC-based initiative called The Black Farm CSA, designed by Black food systems leaders Violet King and Zachari Curtis of Dreaming Out Loud. Hear how it started, the challenges they face, and
what they think is the potential of CSA as a tool to organize communities against structural rac-
ism and toward transformative justice. (Violet King and Zachari Curtis, Dreaming Out Loud)
2:00 PM-2:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

Book Club

Clinic with Farm Consultant Ellen Polishuk
This small group clinic is a unique opportunity to get some of your questions answered by retired farmer now farm consultant Ellen Polishuk. The clinic is intended as a follow up to the preceding workshop, “Scale Up or Scale Down??” Space is limited. If you are unable to get into one of the scheduled meetings, you can visit Ellen’s exhibitor profile to schedule a consultation with her in the season ahead. (Ellen Polishuk, Plant to Profit)

How Much Should I Be Spending on Labor, Insurance, and Infrastructure?
There are a lot of resources to help create business plans and enterprise budgets, but sometimes a spreadsheet doesn’t give us all the answers. Are you curious to know how your expenses compare to other farms of similar size? Join Marcella Epstein of UMD’s Institute of Applied Agriculture for a facilitated chat about the cost of staff, buildings, insurance, and more. (Marcella Epstein, University of Maryland, IAA)

Black Farmer Facilitated Roundtable Part 1: RETURN - Iteration and Imagination
This is a visioning space for black farmers and growers to create and add tools that empower us to create our own rituals of rootedness and re-imagining, as we envision what thriving and togetherness looks like in the space that we are navigating. During times of great upheaval and unearthing, how can we learn from our Ancestors’ wisdom-stories in order to shape this iteration of the world and stake claim on freedom? Black/Afric-descendant people have accessed powerful and sacred portals of code and conjure, poetry and prose, seed-saving and self-determination, root medicine, reclamation, mourning and ritual throughout our existence - past, present, and future. This session is a tribute to the lineage of the people who could fly. (Terican Gross, Suffrage Race Power Initiative)

Let’s Talk: Employee Management, Communication, and Retention
We talk with one another about where to post jobs and find the right employees, and yet spend very little time discussing how to successfully navigate and engage in the employer-employee relationship throughout the season. Whether you have a few years of experience or are about to hire your first employee, join farmer-owner and Future Harvest Board Member Lisa Duff for a facilitated discussion about methods, SOPs, and tips for a successful, returning farm team. (Lisa Duff, Oak Spring Farm, MD)

Reading Your Soil Samples and Creating Nutrient Management Plans
Bring your soil tests and questions or come and share your expertise during this roundtable discussion of all things soil. Lisa Garfield, former vegetable farmer and Future Harvest Research Manager, will be on hand to listen, help, and talk about the various ways to observe and measure soil health and advise on how to use that information to make practical management decisions on your farm. (Lisa Garfield, Future Harvest and Million Acre Challenge)

3:00 PM-3:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

Book Club: Sacred Cow
In Sacred Cow, registered dietitian Diana Rodgers and farmer researcher biochemist Robb Wolf explore the quandaries we face in raising and eating animals - focusing on the largest (and most maligned) of farmed animals, the cow. We’re told that if we care about our health - or our planet - eliminating red meat from our diets is crucial - that beef is bad for us and cattle farming is horrible for the environment, but science says otherwise. Despite what activists groups, vegan celebrities, and some experts say plant-based agriculture is far from a perfect solution. Let’s talk about it. This session will be guided by participants with questions from the facilitator. It is not necessary to have read the whole book, but attendees should come prepared to learn what happens at the end. (Amanda Cather, Million Acre Challenge)

Clinic with Farm Consultant Ellen Polishuk
This small group clinic is a unique opportunity to get some of your questions answered by retired farmer now farm consultant Ellen Polishuk. The clinic is intended as a follow up to the preceding workshop, “Scale Up or Scale Down??” Space is limited. If you are unable to get into one of the scheduled meetings, you can visit Ellen’s exhibitor profile to schedule a consultation with her in the season ahead. (Ellen Polishuk, Plant to Profit)

Seed, Plant, and Fertilizer Costs
There are a lot of resources to help create business plans and enterprise budgets, but sometimes a spreadsheet doesn’t give us all the answers. Are you curious to know how your fertilizer costs compare to other farms of similar size? Wondering how much of your budget should be going to seeds, plants, fertilizer, and other farm supplies? This informal roundtable chat facilitated by Carnis Vaughn, vegetable production manager at Claggett Farm, aims to introduce you to your peers and uncover innovative ways to cut costs on infrastructure or open up a new source for plants and supplies. (Carnis Vaughn, Claggett Farm, MD)

Black Farmer Facilitated Roundtable Part 2: RETURN - Iteration and Imagination
This is a visioning space for black farmers and growers to create and add tools that empower us to create our own ritual of rootedness and re-imagining, as we envision what thriving and togetherness looks like in the space that we are navigating. During times of great upheaval and unearthing, how can we learn from our Ancestors’ wisdom-stories in order to shape this iteration of the world and stake claim on freedom? Black/Afric-descendant people have accessed powerful and sacred portals of code and conjure, poetry and prose, seed-saving and self-determination, root medicine, reclamation, mourning and ritual throughout our existence - past, present, and future. This session is a tribute to the lineage of the people who could fly. (Terican Gross)

Finding Balance Part 2: Farming with Partners, Family, and Children
Work-life balance is challenging for everyone, but as farmers work and lives overlap into a “lifestyle,” balancing the demands of being a working parent, market schedules, farm chores, and child care can be particularly challenging. Whether you’re farming with a baby on your back, see a partner or friend struggling, have started considering egg-washing together a date, want some tips for the upcoming season now that you’re expecting, or are just plain out of ideas - join us for some real talk. It’s not all struggle! Come share and learn tips for survival. Jokes and sarcasm welcomed. (Kimberly Raikes, Whitelock Community Farm, MD; MK Barnett, Open Book Farm, MD)

Minerals, Feed, and Balance
Join Alyssa Walsh from Fertrell and fellow regional livestock farmers for a discussion on minerals, feed, and balancing the nutritional needs of your herds and flocks. (Alyssa Walsh, Fertrell)
SPEAKERS

Aaron Cooper, Cutfresh Organics
Adam Cotrell, Floating Lotus Farmstead
Adrienne Granston, Cusheeba Earth Farm
Aldson Woman, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Alyssa Walsh, Fertrell
Amanda Catnor, Million Acre Challenge
Amy Rowe, MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Andrea Davis-Catina, Quarter Acre Farm
Anita Ashok Adaljia, Agri-cultura Cooperative Network
Ann Sutton, Deep Roots Farm
Becky Seward, Red Treo Farmstead
Blair Snipstal, Earthbound Building
Brad Shaw, Independent Farm Consultant
Brian Alexander, Good Dog Farm
Brent Wilks, Wil’s Soil & Stream
Bryan Alexander, Good Dog Farm
Caitlin Roberts, Number 1 Sons
Camie Vaughn, Cagett Farm
Casey Gustavow, The Farm at Sunnyside
Catherine Nard, Montgomery County Food Council
Chris Newman, Sylvanaqua Farms
Cindy Connor, Homeplace Earth
Dale Johnson, University of Maryland
Deva Cavenaugh, San Sarino Farm
Dena Leitman, Future Harvest
Denzel Mitchell, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Derol Farrel, FRESHFARM
Dominic Hossack, Earthbound Building and Climate Justice Alliance
Elizabeth Reggios, Million Acre Challenge
Ellen Polsnau, Plant to Profit
Emma Jagos, Moon Valley Farm
Eric Plaikin, Waterpenny Farm
Erik de Guzman, Dicot Farm
Erika Crow, University of Maryland Extension
Ester Lin, USDA-FSA
Garrett Ziegler, West Michigan Growers Group, CSA-Innovation Network
Hana Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms
Ian Hertzmark, Migrash Farm
Jacob Gilley, American Farmland Trust, Sustainable Grazing Project
Jane Umbric, Manna Food Center
Janet Vorwald Dohner, Author
Jason Granston, Cusheeba Earth Farm
Jenna Umbric, Manna Food Center
Jenna Rodriguez, Seatfield Farm
Jeremy Criss, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture
Jill Latts, Green Things Farm Collective
Joanna Winkler, Good Dog Farm
Joseph Scott, Farm Loan Chief USDA-FSA
Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm
Keisha Cameron, High Hog Farm
Katherine Rakes, Whitlock Community Farm
Lindsay Gilmour, Organic Planet LLC
Leah Peterson, USDA-FSA
Lisa Duff, Oak Spring Farm
Lisa Garfield, Million Acre Challenge
Liz Reitzig, Nourishing Liberty
Marija Strauss, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Mary Ackley, Lett’s Wild Things City Farm
Mary Kathryn (MK) Barnett, Open Block Farm
Megan Lamer, Glenwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, CSA-Innovation Network
Meghan Ochot, Dicot Farm
Meredith Epstein, UMD JAA
Michael Kane, Piedmont Environmental Council
Nazarah Aquila, Purple Mountain Organics
Nick Stavely, FRESHFARM
Pamela Grahn, FRESHFARM
Rachel Bynum, Waterpenny Farm
Ray Woi, UMD Environment, Science and Technology Department
Renard Turner, Vanguard Ranch
Rick Clark, Clark Land and Cattle, Farm Green
S Polisastro, Gifts Next Farm
Chef Sabine Jeanty
Sage Dennis, Fortrell
Sarah Everhart, ALI
Sarah Hirsh, University of Maryland Extension
Sarah Rider, Flying Prow Farm
Spike Gjerde, Woodberry Kitchen
Sonja Kainer, Chesapeake Food Network
Stacy Caribou, The Farm at Sunnyside
Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO
Stewart Lundy, Pennsylvania Roots Farm
Tattana Aqeel, Garden Concert Series
Tash Walker, Earthwood Land Collective and Tierra Negra Farm
Tanya Doks-Spanholt, Passion to Seed Gardening
Tercan Gross, The Railroad People
Thelanius Cook, Mighty Thundercloud Edible Forest
Tom Parquichi, Sandy Springs Gardens
Tape Fajingbesi, Dodo Farms and the University of Maryland, IAA
Tracy Lloyd McCurty, Black Belt Justice Center and Acres of Ancestry
Black Agrarian Fund
Violet King, DC Mutual Aid Apothecary and Dreaming Out Loud
Zachari Curtis, Dreaming Out Loud

WWW.FRESHFARM.ORG
@freshfarmdc

PHOTO BY JESSICA LEIGH

Let’s grow together

SOILS  LABOR MANAGEMENT  FINDING PROFIT

FARMER COACHING

WITH ELLEN POLISHUK
HOPE IS A SEED

At High Mowing, we see a green, more just world on the horizon. Let’s build that new world together, one seed at a time.

100% organic seed for over 20 years
HIGHMOWINGSEEDS.COM

Homeplace Earth, LLC
Educators for a Sustainable World
Cindy Conner
Ashland, Virginia
www.HomeplaceEarth.com

DvD:
- Green Crops and Compost: Crops in Your Garden
- Develop a Sustainable Vegetable Garden Plan

Books:
- Grow a Sustainable Diet
- Seed Libraries

The Maine Potato Lady™
Not just for Idaho potatoes!
Whole selection of certified organic products:
Certified seed potatoes, garlic, shallots, cover crop seed, fertilizers, inoculants, sweet potato slips, allium transplants, heritage grains, and flowers.
Reasonable prices and volume discounts!

Growing FOR MARKET MAGAZINE
Celebrating 30 years of news and information by and for local veg and flower growers 1992-2021
Digital access now included with all subscriptions. Subscribe at growingformarket.com
Support Next Gen Farmers

The odds against new farmer success are daunting. High land prices, competition from cheap, mass-produced food, labor shortages, and just plain hard work are steep challenges for the new farmer.

The good news—our region is experiencing an explosion of interest in farming! Since Future Harvest’s Beginner Farmer Training Program (BFTP) launched 11 years ago, Future Harvest has trained nearly 400 new farmers across the Chesapeake region in sustainable and regenerative practices. Your donation will help us grow next gen farmers eager to produce fresh, nutritious food in ways that are profitable and protect our water and land, and fight climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil.

For more information or to donate, visit www.futureharvest.org or send a check to 1114 Shawan Road, Suite 1, Cockeysville, MD 21030 (note Tipper-Gurley Fund in check memo line).

Got Local & National AG news? We do!

Stay in-the-know with America’s #1 Daily Ag News Source

Follow us
@morningagclips
Morning Ag Clips

Subscribe Today at morningagclips.com
We are your quick 1-2 for Ag news everyday.

The news never stops. We don't either!
Thank you farmers!
The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.

- Wendell Berry

#gowithyourgut

**ACRES OF ANCESTRY INITIATIVE**

ACRES OF ANCESTRY INITIATIVE/BLACK AGRARIAN FUND is a multidisciplinary, cooperative nonprofit ecosystem rooted in Black ecocultural traditions and textile arts to regenerate custodial landownership, ecological stewardship, and food and fiber economies in the South.

WWW.ACRESOFANCESTRY.ORG

---

Janet Vorwald Dohner

*The Encyclopedia of Animal Predators* gives in-depth profiles of animal predators teaching farmers, ranchers, and backyard animal raisers how to prevent their livestock, poultry, and pets from becoming prey. Learn to identify threatening species through tracks, scat, and the type of damage they leave behind while gaining an understanding of how predatory mammals, birds, and reptiles think and behave, as well as how they attack and kill prey. This is an invaluable reference for everyone with a vested interest in protecting their pets and livestock and a captivating read for anyone spellbound by wild predators.

$24.95/Paper  $34.95/Hardcover  ISBN 978-1-61212-699-9  No. 622699
LEADING with vision and purpose

Kaiser Permanente is proud to sponsor the Future Harvest CASA 21st Anniversary Conference. We are committed to creating healthier communities and improving the quality of life for all those we serve.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.
2101 E. Jefferson St., Rockville, MD 20852 2019CH2478 MAS 1/1/20–1/31/20

MARBIDCO: Helping Farmers of All Types!
The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO), is a quasi-public financial intermediary development organization, offering low-interest loan and other incentive programs to assist Maryland qualifying farm, forestry, and seafood businesses. Often partnering with commercial lenders, MARBIDCO helps ag businesses secure affordable capital and credit for capital equipment, commercial facilities, and real estate purchases. Through our programs over the last 13 years, MARBIDCO has helped over 410 young and beginning farmers (assisting many with the purchase of their first farms). Three of our key programs include the Maryland Resource-Based Industry Financing Fund (MRBIFF), the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program (The Next Gen Program), and the Maryland Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant Program.

♫ What is the MRBIFF program? The Maryland Resource-Based Industry Financing Fund, or “MRBIFF,” offers low-interest loans to young and/or beginning farmers and other agricultural and rural businesses for the purchase of land and capital equipment for production and processing activities. MARBIDCO can provide MRBIFF loan amounts up to $250,000 for acquisition of equipment and fixed assets, $500,000 for real estate purchases, food/meat processing and bioenergy projects, and $750,000 for large-scale food/fiber processing projects (of $2.5 million and up). Through the MRBIFF program, MARBIDCO provides 20% to 40% of financing needed for a project, and a commercial lender and/or a public instrumentality must also have an equal financial commitment in the transaction. (Note: MARBIDCO typically takes a subordinate position on the collateral security and under appropriate circumstances will approve real estate loans up to 100% combined loan-to-value.)

♫ How does MARBIDCO assist next generation farmers? The Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program (Next Gen Program) and the Small Acreage Next Generation Farmland Acquisition (SANG) Program were established by MARBIDCO to help qualified young or beginning farmers who have trouble entering or staying in the agricultural profession because of relatively high farmland costs and a lack of access to adequate financial capital to purchase farmland. These programs are relatively speedy farmland conservation easement option purchase programs designed to help facilitate the transfer of farmland to a new generation of farmers, while at the same time, effectively helping to preserve the subject agricultural land from future development.

♫ What options do urban farmers have? MARBIDCO offers the Maryland Urban Agriculture Commercial Lending Incentive Grant Program to beginning or existing urban farmers, with some matching support from Farm Credit. The program is designed to help meet the farmers financing needs by providing an incentive for them to seek commercial lender financing for the development or expansion of their agricultural enterprises. The participation of a commercial bank, Farm Credit Association, or USDA-FSA in providing project financing is required. The maximum amount of the incentive grant is $10,000, calculated at no more than 20% of the project’s total cost and no more than 25% of the amount of the approved commercial loan for the project. (The minimum grant amount is $1,000 – with a commercial loan of $4,000, combined for a $5,000 project being financed.) Special Regional Equity Incentive Grant Funding of up to 5% (for MARBIDCO loans) is also available for farmers in Southern Maryland (including Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince Georges and St. Mary’s counties), and in the Upper Shore of Maryland (including Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne’s counties).

MARBIDCO’s Financial Programs Staff are ready to help you! Please visit our exhibit booth or Contact us at: 410-267-6807 or find us on the Web at: www.marbidco.org!