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 heave hard together. A farmer in the hinterlands still depends on a larger system of actors to get product to market. White people cannot 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 food web, dependent 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 Fajingbesi 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 Darm for his photo, “Holding Onto Each Other” featured on the program cover.

Second Place (Facing Page): “#BlackExcel-lence” by Farmer Chippy (Richie Francis)

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

Photo Contest

MILLION ACRE CHALLENGE

Visit the Million Acre Challenge booth to learn more about how healthy soil practices can benefit your farm!

MillionAcreChallenge.org

Facebook: facebook.com/soilchallenge
Twitter: @soilchallenge
Instagram: @soilchallenge

Amanda Cather, Project Director
amanda@millionacrechallenge.org | 240-812-2896
2021 Conference Committee
Amy Crone, Berran Rogers, Cathy Tipper, Cristina Flores, Denzel Mitchell, Henriette den Ouden, Hiu Newcomb, Kimberly Raikes, Lindsay Smith, Lisa Duff, Meghan Ochal, Mary Kathryn (MK) Barnet, Meredith Epstein, Natasha Blair, Nathan Bergdoll, Nevin Dawson, Stephanie Ritchie, Theloniue 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 Crone, Market Link, Secretary. Tope Fajingbesi, Dodo Farms and UMD IAA, Treasurer.

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Interactive Lunch and Cocktail Contributors
Denzel Mitchell, Sabine Jeanty, Tattiana Aqeel, Spike Gjerde, Hex Ferments, Catoctin Creek

Grow, Eat, Shoot! 2020 Photo Contest Judges
Lise Metzger, Molly Peterson, Edwin Remsberg

Thanks To Our Track Sponsors:

BEGINNING FARMING
BUSINESS OF FARMING
ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, & POLICY
GRASSFED MEAT & DAIRY
## THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Intensive: Owning Your Own Land: Resources and Mentorship</td>
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<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Intensive: Online Sales Platforms Winners and Losers: Farmers’ Review</td>
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<td>Pre-Conference Intensive: Stronger Together: Cooperative Farming Models</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>BIPOC Farmer Networking Happy Hour</td>
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## FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH

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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 9:15 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>9:15 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Opening Keynote: Growing a New World - Tope Fajingbesi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Session I</td>
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<td>Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Chesapeake Food System</td>
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<td>What You REALLY Need to Know About Electric Fences</td>
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<td>Record-Keeping and Crop-Planning with Josh Volk from Slow Hand Farm</td>
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<td>Leveraging Our Local Food Supply: Montgomery County Maryland’s Farm to Food Bank Program</td>
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<td>Key Pro Tips for Raising Small Ruminants Naturally</td>
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<td>The Million Acre Challenge (MAC) Presents: The Dollars and Sense of Soil Health</td>
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<td>12:30 pm - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Interactive Lunch</td>
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<td>2:00 pm - 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Farmer-to-Farmer Roundtables and Clinics</td>
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<td>3:00 pm - 3:45 pm</td>
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<td>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Farmer Awards &amp; Cocktail/Mocktail Hour</td>
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### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>9:00 am - 9:15 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>9:15 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Speaker:</strong> The Next Agriculture Economy - Chris Newman</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Session III</strong></td>
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<td>• Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers</td>
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<td>• To Scale Up or Scale Down -- That’s the Question</td>
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<td>• Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio</td>
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<td>• We’re Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic</td>
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<td>• The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production</td>
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<td>• Making Even Better Compost</td>
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<td>11:15 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session IV</strong></td>
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<td>• Irrigation Systems for the Small, Mixed Vegetable Farm</td>
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<td>• Mitigating Financial Risk in the Time of COVID-19</td>
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<td>• Hand-Scale Cover Cropping</td>
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<td>• Feeding the Fight: Black Farms, Communities, and How CSA's Can Get Political</td>
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<td>• Lessons Learned From Adopting and Grazing Summer Annuals</td>
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<td>• Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet</td>
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<td>12:30 pm - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Interactive Lunch and Music</td>
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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.

Special thanks to Catoctin Creek and Hex Ferments.
WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

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. Sylvanaqua 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 Jeanty 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.

2020 Farmer of the Foodshed Winners: Sarah Rider and Tom Paduano, Flying Plow Farm; Judy Gifford, St. Brigid’s Farm; Barbara Lamborne and Dennis Fuze, Greenstone Fields; with Future Harvest Board President Carrie Vaughn and Executive Director Dena Leibman
FEATURED EXHIBITORS

EXHIBITORS

Acres of Ancestry/Black Agrarian Fund
A Growing Culture
Catoctin Creek
Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance
Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund
Go Grassfed
High Mowing Organic Seeds
HEX Ferments
LEAD MD
Liz Reitzig - marketing consultation
Local Food Marketplace, Inc.
Market Link

Million Acre Challenge (MAC)
MAC Tool Share
Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)
Northeast SARE
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Piedmont 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
Veteran Compust
## THURSDAY, JAN 14: PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**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, MARBIDCO, 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; Emma Jagoz, Moon Valley Farm, MD; Bryan Alexander and Joanna Winkler, Good Dog Farm, MD; Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO; 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)*

### 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**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-Cetina, Quarter Acre Farm, MD; Mary Ackley, Little Wild Things Farm, DC; Sarah Rider, Flying Plow Farm, MD; Sarah Everhart, UMD-ALEI; Nick Stavely, Derel Farmer, and Pierre Grahn, FRESHFARM Markets.)*

### 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**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 guardian animals, including information about the pros and cons of using llamas, donkeys, and dogs, how to choose the right animal for your farm, and basic care. We will also cover typical training or trouble-shooting issues and discuss the use of livestock guardian dogs with poultry. *(Jan Dohner, Expert and Author)*

### 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**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 accountants 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 Regenerative Finance Fellow. Panelists Blain Snipstal, EarthBound Building, MD; Chris Newman, Sylvania Farm, VA; Hana Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms, VA; Tahz Walker, Earthseed Land Co-op and Tierra Negra Farm, NC. Financial and legal expertise from BRED and Parag Khandhar, Gilmore & Kandhar.)*
KEYNOTE: 9:00 AM-9:45 AM  
**Growing A New World:** Tope Fajingbesi, Author, UMD-Institute of Applied Agriculture Lecturer, and CPA

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 be, 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.

**SESSION I: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

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| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Beginning Farming**  
Part- to Full-Time Farming: Can You Make It Work? With a whole lot of hard work, personal savings, and a little bit of luck, Meghan Ochal and Erik de Guzman scaled their 1/3-acre hobby farm into a full-time, both-employed, two-acre operation complete with infrastructure, seasonal employees, and robust sales outlets over the course of six years. Hear how their long-term plan, decision-making process, adjustments, pivots, business planning, leveraging of non-farm sources of income, and flexibility helped them on the ever-evolving farming journey. (Meghan Ochal and Erik de Guzman, Dicot Farm, MD) | Meghan Ochal and Erik de Guzman, Dicot Farm, MD |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Business of Farming**  
Challenges When Transitioning to Organic: A Grain Case Study 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 and familiar with market outlets, specifically for corn and sorghum, to join the discussion as the team looks for new varieties to add into local grain rotations! (Dr. Ray Weil, Professor of Soils, Environmental Science and Technology Department, UMD; Aaron Cooper, Cutfresh Organics, MD; Dave Cavanaugh, San Sanino Farm, MD; Ian Hertzmark, Migrash Farm, MD; Dr. Nazirahk Amen, Purple Mountain Organics, MD) | Dr. Ray Weil, Professor of Soils, Environmental Science and Technology Department, UMD; Aaron Cooper, Cutfresh Organics, MD; Dave Cavanaugh, San Sanino Farm, MD; Ian Hertzmark, Migrash Farm, MD; Dr. Nazirahk Amen, Purple Mountain Organics, MD |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Crop Production**  
Weed Control: The Right Tool For the Right Job 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 weeders, a Williams tool system, bushhog, and Perfecta among others into regular use for organic weed control. Josh Volk of Slow Hand Farm will discuss hand tool cultivation. He’ll share the list of tools he uses, how they fit into 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) | Hana Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms, VA; Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm, OR |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Environment, Community, & Policy**  
Resilient, Crisis-Ready (RCR) Chesapeake Food System 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. (Dena Leibman, Future Harvest Executive Director, and guests) | Dena Leibman, Future Harvest Executive Director, and guests |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Grassfed: Meat & Dairy**  
What You REALLY Need to Know About Electric Fences Electric fencing can be a big investment, especially when you don’t know exactly what you need! Join Brad Shaw of Pasture Management Systems to learn how to choose between semi-permanent, temporary, and portable systems, posts, reels, netting, and how your wire selection affects your energizer choices. More than 50% of grounding systems are inadequate, so this workshop will also discuss proper grounding procedures and the how-to’s of testing. (Brad Shaw, Independent Farm Consultant, TN) | Brad Shaw, Independent Farm Consultant, TN |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | **Regenerative Agriculture**  
Cover Cropping and Reducing Tillage Within Annual Vegetable Production As vegetable farmers, we often spend lots 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 your farm. We’ll discuss cover crop basics including regionally appropriate species, mixes and timing, rates for seeding, and 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 Gustowarow, VA) | Casey Gustowarow, VA |
**SCHEDULE: FRIDAY JANUARY 15**

### SESSION II: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

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<td><strong>Beginning Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>Herbal Self-Care for Farmers</strong> We are skilled at growing fruits and vegetables, but do we know about or use the cultivated and wild plant medicine that often surrounds us? How can we use herbal medicine and holistic healing practices to take care of ourselves as we take care of others? Join farmer and herbalist Violet King of the DC Herbal Mutual Aid Apothecary for a workshop and discussion around herbal self-care for the busy farmer. We will talk about the common ailments we face and ways to incorporate herbal medicine and simple habits into our routine to ensure we are nourished and thriving throughout the growing season. <em>(Violet King, Herbalist and Farmer, DC Herbal Mutual Aid Apothecary)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Business of Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pickles, Potatoes, and Pesto: Bridging Customers and Farmers During COVID</strong> Over the course of a few weeks in spring 2020, Number 1 Sons transformed its business from primarily selling pickles and ferments at farmers markets into a DC home delivery service for their own wares plus products from local farmers and producers. Throughout the year they adjusted their model to meet the needs of their own business, farm and producer partners, and customers. This session will feature Number 1 Sons owners, local farm partners, and other producers sharing how they started and improved the new business model. They’ll share tips for other businesses and producers interested in collaborating, whether in response to COVID or just because it makes sense! <em>(Caitlin Roberts, Number 1 Sons, VA; Stacey Carlberg, The Farm at Sunnyside, VA; Meghan Ochal, Dicot Farm, MD)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Crop Production</strong></td>
<td><strong>Record Keeping and Crop Planning with Josh Volk from Slow Hand Farm</strong> Josh Volk refers to Slow Hand Farm as “a one-man operation run by him.” How does he have time to farm solo, market, and consult? Careful record-keeping and planning! Josh will share his tips for integrating both into day-to-day work on the farm and how to make the most of your records once you’re saving and organizing them. With examples from his own farm, participants will see how records inform everything from weekly priority planning during the season to longer-term marketing and production plans. <em>(Josh Volk, Slow Hand Farm, OR)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environment, Community, &amp; Policy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leveraging Our Local Food Supply: Montgomery County Maryland’s Farm to Food Bank Program</strong> In response to increased food insecurity resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, the Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank Program was established through a public-private partnership between the Food Security Task Force, Montgomery County Food Council, Manna Food Center, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture, and the Greater Washington Community Foundation to provide produce to food assistance recipients in Montgomery County, while supporting Montgomery County farmers and promoting a sustainable and resilient local food supply for 2020-2021 and beyond. Learn about each of the organizations and farms involved in this program, and strategies that can be leveraged to implement similar initiatives throughout the region, such as developing creative partnerships within local government agencies and the local food system, securing funding, and collecting data. <em>(Catherine Nardi, Montgomery County Food Council; Jenna Umbric, Manna Food Center; Jeremy Criss, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture; Tom Farquhar, Sandy Spring Gardens; Tanya Doka Spandhla, Passion to Seed Gardening)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grassfed: Meat &amp; Dairy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Key Pro Tips for Raising Small Ruminants Naturally</strong> Raising sheep and goats can be challenging, particularly in terms of health. Small ruminants are susceptible to internal parasites, hoof problems like rot and scald, and a host of bacteria and viruses. With careful breeding stock selection, biosecurity, routine hoof care, attention to nutrition, and a few basic management strategies, you can raise them naturally and prevent a lot of problems. Renard Turner will share his key tips for raising healthy and happy small ruminants for meat on pasture. <em>(Renard Turner, Vanguard Ranch, VA)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regenerative Agriculture</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Million Acre Challenge (MAC) Presents: The Dollars and Sense of Soil Health</strong> Of course soil health matters! We know you know that. But, how do you manage it while juggling everything else? More importantly, how is it going to impact your bottom line? In this session, learn from three top-notch farmers from across the country who are making soil health work on their farms. They will offer insights into organic, no-till grain farming, specialty crop production within a farm collective, and livestock for food and fiber. Together, in this moderated panel session, we’ll delve into the dollars and sense of soil health. The MAC presents this compelling line-up of panelists as part of its ongoing soil health programming. A new, collaborative project helping Maryland farmers build soil health, increase farm profitability, and improve water quality while making farms resilient and active in the face of climate change, the MAC is farmer-focused and uses soil health science, economics, education, and incentives to achieve its mission. <em>(Jill Lada, Green Things Farm Collective, MI; Keisha Cameron, High Hog Farm, GA; Rick Clark, Farm Green, IN)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Hirsh and Erika Crowl, 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 from USDA-FSA and Farm Credit as well as program officers from MARBIDCO. Each one will be in a separate break out room and can help guide you through the process. 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; Allison Roe, MARBIDCO; Amy Rowe; Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit)

Getting to The Root of it All: Let’s Talk Beets and Carrots
Come learn and share tips for growing great roots! 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, equity in the marketplace, how different farms fare in the changing landscape, and what a more equitable market would look like. And we’ll consider: Is the cooperative model the way to go? (Garrett Zeigler, MSU Extension, West Michigan Growers Group and CSA-Innovation Network)

White Allies Caucus
Join a white allies/accomplices affinity group to do some group processing out of emerging themes. White affinity group spaces are confidential, supportive environments for white people to not only process issues and emotions without burdening BIPOC friends and colleagues, but to hold each other accountable for working towards racial justice. (Sonia Keiner and Lindsay Gilmour)

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 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
Join the Future Harvest Field School in 2021 for a mix of online and on farm programming! From financial webinars to hands-on classes, the field school offers programming for farmers of all experience levels.

Learning how to evaluate pasture? Looking for more resources about soil health? Interested in growing small grains?
Visit www.futureharvest.org/foodshed-field-school to learn more about our upcoming events in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.
3:00 PM-3:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

It All Starts With a Seed
This discussion will “peel back the veil” of the seed world by offering a behind-the-scenes explanation of organic seed development, production, and distribution. We’ll cover organic variety development and product pipelines, current seed production challenges, seed availability, and offer Q&A opportunities to discuss organic varieties in depth and to hear directly from farmers about their experiences with seed companies and seed availability. (Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; Laura Goldshein, High Mowing Seeds)

CSA Roundtable Discussion: Where is the “Movement” and How Should We Be Evolving?
At this inflection point for the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) model, we’ll consider if it is time to strengthen and develop the model more, define and redefine the “C” in CSA, and develop this marketplace equitably. Join the CSA-Innovation Network in this very important and timely discussion! (Megan Larmer, Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, NY, and CSA-Innovation Network)

Vegetable Variety Lightning Round!
Rather than pine over seeds we can’t buy anymore, let’s talk about the ones we love that are still in the catalogues. Do they yield well? Are they gorgeous to look at? Is the flavor out of this world? Can you find organic certified seed? Join us to share about your favorites. (Mariette Hiu Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms, VA; David Giusti, Second Spring CSA Farm, VA)

A Case for Reparations and Pigford Debt Cancellation: What is the Justice for Black Farmers Act All About?
Recently, US Senators Booker, Warren, and Gillibrand introduced a bill that aims to end USDA discrimination and right some past wrongs. Previous attempts such as the 1999 Pigford v. Glickman class action racial discrimination lawsuit left many Black farmers with unconscionable debt, threat of forclosures, and no legal recourse to save their farms. This roundtable chat is facilitated by lawyer and policy expert Tracy Lloyd McCurty. It is recommended that participants read the bill in its entirety and study the historical background in advance (links found in the conference agenda inside the virtual event). (Tracy Lloyd McCurty, Black Belt Justice Center, Acres of Ancestry Initiative/ Black Agrarian Fund)

Finding Balance Part 1: Farming with Children
Work-life balance is challenging for everyone. This chat will focus on the demands of being a working parent whether that means welcoming a newborn, balancing child care (or lack there-of) during COVID, or keeping up with evolving needs of your children as they get older and even move out of your house but still need their adults. Join us for some real talk but also the joy and laughs. It’s not all struggle! Come share and learn tips for survival. Jokes and sarcasm welcomed.

Fertility Management with Fertrell
How much and what kind of fertilizer should you be using? When should you apply it for the best results? Does what you apply depend on the preceding crop? Find out in this discussion led by Sage Dennis from Fertrell. All participants are encouraged to share their experiences and knowledge generously. (Sage Dennis, Fertrell)

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>>>
# KEYNOTE: 9:00 AM-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.

# SESSION III: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finding the Right Farm Job: Lessons Learned From Beginner Farmers</strong></td>
<td>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. (Anita Adalja, Agri-cultura Cooperative Network, NM; S Policastro, Owls Nest Farm, MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business of Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>To Scale Up or Scale Down -- That's the Question</strong></td>
<td>Do you know which crops are making you a profit? What you can sell more of and where to cut back? The answers to these questions are the making of a great crop plan. Dive into crop costing and tools available to see who’s 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. (Ellen Polishuk, Plant to Profit)</td>
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<td><strong>Crop Production</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hot and Bitter: Growing and Marketing Spicy Peppers and Radicchio</strong></td>
<td>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 Gustowarow, VA)</td>
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<td><strong>Environment, Community, &amp; Policy</strong></td>
<td><strong>We’re Still Here: How the Farm Alliance Used Community Resources to Help Micro-Scale Farms Survive the Pandemic</strong></td>
<td>This workshop will provide the narrative and process the Farm Alliance of Baltimore used to respond to the emergent needs of its 16 member-farms and six community gardens. The organization used mutual aid and leveraged philanthropic donations to respond with a 5-point program that allowed its members to not only survive but thrive through the pandemic. (Alison Worman; Denzel Mitchell, and Mariya Strauss, Farm Alliance of Baltimore)</td>
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<td><strong>Grassfed: Meat &amp; Dairy</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Economics of Small-Scale Poultry Production</strong></td>
<td>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 presentation will show you - in detail - how to calculate the feed, housing, labor, losses, processing, storage, and delivery costs under different production systems and share Excel spreadsheets for layer and broiler enterprises that will all be made available for you to use to analyze your own operation. (Dale Johnson, Agricultural Economist, UMD)</td>
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<td><strong>Regenerative Agriculture</strong></td>
<td><strong>Making Even Better Compost</strong></td>
<td>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)</td>
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### SESSION IV: 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>Irrigation Systems for the Small, Mixed Vegetable Farm</strong> Growing mixed vegetables demands different systems for adequate irrigation; identifying the appropriate system is a top priority. In this workshop, Adam Cottrell will dive into the basics of irrigation, discuss irrigation methods appropriate for different vegetable types, and cover how to develop an effective irrigation plan. <em>(Adam Cottrell, Floating Lotus Farmstead, MD)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business of Farming</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mitigating Financial Risk in the Time of COVID-19</strong> This workshop is a follow up to Future Harvest's Spring 2020 webinar during which Fajingbesi, a CPA and co-owner of Dodo Farms, helped farmers identify, plan for, and manage anticipated financial challenges on the horizon due to world events. Now, we will review how to identify strategies for dealing with potential loss of revenue as a result of closed channels, cost implications of additional safety procedures, and planning for uncertainties. Jenna Rodriguez participated in the spring training and will also share concrete examples of how she used these strategies during the 2020 season, and share any lessons learned to help with planning for the 2021 season. <em>(Tope Fajingbesi, CPA; Jenna Rodriguez, Seafield Farm, VA)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Crop Production</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hand-Scale Cover Cropping</strong> Learn what cover crops are, how and when they grow, and which ones might work best for you. You don’t need a tiller and Cindy Conner will show you how to manage them with only hand tools. Cover crops covered are cereal rye, wheat, oats, hairy vetch, winter peas, crimson clover, red clover, alfalfa, oilseed radish, cowpeas, and buckwheat. <em>(Cindy Connor, Homeplace Earth, VA)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Environment, Community, &amp; Policy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Feeding the Fight: Black Farms, Communities, and How CSA’s Can Get Political</strong> Throughout American history, Black Americans have been forced to exhibit uncanny creativity and ingenuity 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 wealthy and White, actually has origins in the Black Belt South among farmers navigating the economic stranglehold of the Jim Crow economy. This session 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 racism and toward transformative justice. <em>(Violet King and Zachari Curtis, Dreaming Out Loud)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Grassfed: Meat &amp; Dairy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lessons Learned From Adopting and Grazing Summer Annuals</strong> Growing annuals as forages can be costly. Choosing the most appropriate species, mixes, and methodology for establishment are crucially important in adaptive livestock systems. This workshop will highlight the good, bad, and ugly of what the American Farmland Trust’s Sustainable Grazing Project taught us during the 2020 summer grazing season for calves, backgrounded on summer annuals and improved grazing practices. We’ll discuss adapting existing infrastructure, temporary systems for more intensive management, and the economics of grazing summer annuals versus perennial cool season grasses. <em>(Jacob Gilley, American Farmland Trust, Sustainable Grazing Project, VA)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regenerative Agriculture</strong></td>
<td><strong>Healthy Soil for Plant and Planet</strong> Small, diversified farms in the mid-Atlantic region have fed us throughout our brief history - and their numbers are growing. Joint Brent 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 increasing soil carbon, mitigating many of the climate-altering methods practiced today, and all while producing foods that are healthy for us and for our communities. In this workshop, Brent will speak to the specific parameters and management techniques of biological and regenerative methods that farmers are using to get those benefits on farm while enhancing the overall ecosystem health of their communities. <em>(Brent Wills, Wills Soil &amp; Stream, VA)</em></td>
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### 2:00 PM-2:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yoga as Part of Farmer Self Care</td>
<td>We all know that taking care of ourselves is important, but do we take time each day to put that into practice? Join this virtual yoga session and make today be one of hopefully many.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic with Farm Consultant Ellen Polishuk</td>
<td>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)</td>
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<td>How Much Should I Be Spending on Labor, Insurance, and Infrastructure?</td>
<td>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 Meredith Epstein of UMD’s Institute of Applied Agriculture for a facilitated chat about the cost of staff, buildings, insurance, and more. (Meredith Epstein, University of Maryland, IAA)</td>
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<td>Black Farmer Facilitated Roundtable Part 1 of 2: RETURN - Iteration and Imagination</td>
<td>This is a visioning space for Black farmers and growers to create tools and rituals of rootedness and re-imagining, as we envision what thriving and togetherness looks like in the space that we are navigating. Our Ancestors have been here before. They know this place. 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 our claim on freedom? Black/Afro-descendant people have accessed powerful and sacred portals of code and conjure, poetry and prose, seed-saving, spirituals and self-determination, root medicine and 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)</td>
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<td>Let’s Talk: Employee Management, Communication, and Retention</td>
<td>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 Liz Whitehurst for a facilitated discussion about methods, SOPs, employee handbooks, facilitating shared leadership, and tips for a successful, returning farm team. (Liz Whitehurst, Owl’s Nest Farm, MD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Your Soil Samples and Creating Nutrient Management Plans</td>
<td>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)</td>
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3:00 PM-3:45 PM: FARMER-TO-FARMER ROUNDTABLES AND CLINICS

**Book Club: Sacred Cow**
In Sacred Cow, registered dietitian Diana Rodgers and former research 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 anti-meat 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 neccessary 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 Carrie Vaughn, vegetable production manager at Clagett 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. *(Carrie Vaughn, Clagett Farm, MD)*

**Black Farmer Facilitated Roundtable Part 2 of 2: RETURN - Iteration and Imagination**
This is a visioning space for Black farmers and growers to create tools and rituals of rootedness and re-imagining, as we envision what thriving and togetherness looks like in the space that we are navigating. Our Ancestors have been here before. They know this place. 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 our claim on freedom? Black/Afro-descendant people have accessed powerful and sacred portals of code and conjure, poetry and prose, seed-saving, spirituals and self-determination, root medicine and 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 Family**
Work-life balance is challenging for everyone. This chat will focus on the challenges of balancing your farmer identity with your family identity. You might think the grass is greener on the other side, but the truth is all of us have experiences to share and questions to ask whether we farm with our family, in community with chosen family, and/ or struggle to make it home on time for dinner with loved ones who also make demands on our times just like the vegetables and livestock.

**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)*

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**JOIN FUTURE HARVEST BECOME A MEMBER**
Future Harvest is a passionate, forward-thinking community of farmers, food businesses, and food lovers. We work to advance agricultural businesses; our land, water, and climate; and our communities through year-round education, research, and advocacy programs.

**Become a Future Harvest Member & Enjoy These Benefits!**
- **40% discounts on all field school programming throughout the year, including field days, tours, workshops, and more**
- Steeply discounted admission to our annual conference, three full days of hands-on and workshop learning, and networking
- Event volunteer opportunities, for further event discounts
- Discounts with industry partners, like Seed Savers Exchange, Meadow Creature Broadfork, Dripworks and Veteran Compost
- Voting rights at our annual Membership Meeting
- Joining a community of like-minded farmers, foodpreneurs, and food lovers in the Chesapeake foodshed

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**SCHEDULE: SATURDAY JANUARY 16**

Photo by Bernie Fowler Jr.
SPEAKERS

Aaron Cooper, Cutfresh Organics
Adam Cottrell, Floating Lotus Farmstead
Adrienne Granston, Cusheeba Earth Farm
Alison Worman, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Allison Roe, MARBIDCO
Alyssa Walsh, Fertrell
Amanda Cather, Million Acre Challenge
Amy Rowe, MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Andrea Davis-Cetina, Quarter Acre Farm
Anita Ashok Adaljia, Agri-cultura Cooperative Network
Ann Sutton, Deep Roots Farm
Becky Seward, Red Tree Farmstead
Blain Snipstal, EarthBound Building
Brad Shaw, Independent Farm Consultant
Brian Alexander, Good Dog Farm
Brent Wills, Wills Soil & Stream
Bryan Alexander, Good Dog Farm
Catlin Roberts, Number 1 Sons
Carrie Vaughn, Clagett Farm
Casey Gustowarow, The Farm at Sunnyside
Catherine Nardi, Montgomery County Food Council
Chris Newman, Sylvanaqua Farms
Cindy Conner, Homeplace Earth
Dale Johnson, University of Maryland
Dave Cavanaugh, San Sanino Farm
David Giusti, Second Spring CSA Farm
Dena Leibman, Future Harvest
Denzel Mitchell, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Derel Farmer, FRESHFARM
Dom Hosack, EarthBound Building and Climate Justice Alliance
Elizabeth Begginis, Million Acre Challenge
Ellen Polishuk, Plant to Profit
Emma Jagoz, Moon Valley Farm
Eric Plaksin, Waterpenny Farm
Erik de Guzman, Dicot Farm
Erika Crowl, University of Maryland Extension
Esther Lin, USDA-FSA
Garrett Ziegler, West Michigan Growers Group, CSA-Innovation Network
Hana Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms
Ian Hertzmark, Migrash Farm
Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
Jacob Gilley, American Farmlands Trust, Sustainable Grazing Project
Jane Umbricai, Manna Food Center
Janet Vorwald Dohner, Author
Jason Granston, Cusheeba Earth Farm
Jenna Umbricai, Manna Food Center
Jenna Rodriguez, Seafeld Farm
Jeremy Criss, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture
Jill Lada, 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
Kimberly Raikes, Whitelock Community Farm
Laura Goldsheat, High Mowing Seeds
Leah Petersen, USDA-FSA
Lindsay Gilmour, Organic Planet LLC
Lisa Duff, Oak Spring Farm
Lisa Garfield, Million Acre Challenge
Liz Reitzig, Nourishing Liberty
Liz Whitehurst, Owls Nest Farm
Mariette Hiu Newcomb, Potomac Vegetable Farms
Mariya Strauss, Farm Alliance of Baltimore
Mary Ackley, Little Wild Things City Farm
Mary Kathryn (MK) Barnett, Open Book Farm
Megan Larmer, Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, CSA-Innovation Network
Meghan Ochol, Dicot Farm
Meredith Epstein, UMD IAA
Michael Kane, Piedmont Environmental Council
Nazirahk Amen, Purple Mountain Organics
Nick Stavel, FRESHFARM
Pierre Grahn, FRESHFARM
Rachel Bynum, Waterpenny Farm
Ray Weil, UMD Environment, Science and Technology Department
Renard Turner, Vanguard Ranch
Rick Clark, Clark Land and Cattle, Farm Green
S Policastro, Owls Nest Farm
Chef Sabine Jeanty
Sage Dennis, Fertrell
Sarah Everhart, ALEI
Sarah Hirsh, University of Maryland Extension
Sarah Rider, Flying Plow Farm
Spike Gjerde, Woodberry Kitchen
Sonia Keiner, Chesapeake Food Network
Stacey Carlberg, The Farm at Sunnyside
Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO
Stewart Lundy, Perennial Roots Farm
Tattiana Aqeel, Garden Concert Series
Tahz Walker, Earthseed Land Collective and Tierra Negra Farm
Tanya Doka-Spanhla, Passion to Seed Gardening
Terican Gross
Thelonius Cook, Mighty Thundercloud Edible Forest
Tom Farquhar, Sandy Springs Gardens
Tope 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
Nourishing minds, bodies, and communities in the Mid-Atlantic region.

We operate 30 farmers markets in the DC metro area.

Join us! Apply to sell at market at freshfarm.org/sell-at-market. Applications close February 15th, 2021.
Interested in learning about events, programs, actions, job openings, and funding sources in the fields of urban Ag, food security, environment, and food justice in the greater DC area?

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Remember our film from last year’s conference? You can now stream and share the film - and valuable resources about the benefits of grassfed meat and dairy - with your customers on the new Go Grassfed website: https://gograssfed.godaddysites.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).

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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!