



Dear Community,

Since COVID-19 hit Wisconsin in March, Farmshed has been reflecting on the tremendous responsibility we have to realize our mission to grow a resilient local food community. We started by thinking about our role in terms of providing local food choices to families that are struggling. We've been working on exciting partnerships with CAP Services' Hmong UPLIFT Program, the Mobile Pantry, and the Salvation Army Hope Center. Beginning this summer we are working with these partners to ensure more delicious, healthy, and locally grown food is included in community meals and grocery donations made to area families.

Access to healthy local food is important, but alone it is not enough. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have been painful reminders that racism is ever present in our communities. A reality that influences our intentions, even when we set out to do good. A reality that is pushing us to ask:

- Who is Farmshed for?
- Who sees themselves as part of Farmshed?
- How has Farmshed's story been influenced by the deep roots of racism?
- What will Farmshed look like when it becomes the inclusive organization it was envisioned to be?

Since day one, I know Farmshed has strived to create a place for all people and their local food ideas. Many of you have poured your heart and sweat into repurposing our facility into a working greenhouse and commercial kitchen with the idea that everyone would feel welcome and use Farmshed to bring their ideas to life. Even more of you have poured your heart and sweat into creating a community that values healthy and delicious local food for all. I see how much Farmshed is loved and how eager you are to see more people engaged in growing a resilient local food community.

Now is the time to commit to deepen our work and intentionally seek the voices,

experiences, ideas, and needs of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) in our community; work that will sting, will take time, and will be incredibly rewarding.

Together we will:

1. Support Black Lives Matter.
2. Invite BIPOC to share their local food experiences, ideas, and needs.
3. Listen to BIPOC with a commitment to justice. Justice that comes with a further commitment to unlearning our behaviors.
4. Purchase from our local farmers of color.
5. Ask important questions about our work like, why was Farmshed created without BIPOC?
6. Ask important questions about our food system like, why do some people have food choices in our community and others do not?
7. Change our governance and decision making.
8. Redesign our work and downtown Stevens Point facility.
9. Educate ourselves and take responsibility for our individual work.
10. Make mistakes and learn from them when we do.
11. Secure financial resources and partnerships to do this work.

Central Wisconsin is a beautiful and diverse place to live. It is the place I grew up and brought my family back to live - because of that beauty, because of that diversity, and because of our community's potential to be an inclusive place where everyone has access to the same opportunities to thrive. What I've learned since beginning my role at Farmshed and listening to members and others who come through our door, is that many of you feel the same.

We see this as an opportunity to be challenged to realize the inclusive community of farmers, entrepreneurs, businesses, and impassioned eaters that is essential to becoming a resilient local food community.

I hope you will join us in this important social justice work. We are looking forward to discussing your commitment, your ideas, and your questions. You can reach Jeremy Solin, Farmshed's Board Chair at [jjsolin@hotmail.com](mailto:jjsolin@hotmail.com) or me at [jenny@farmshed.org](mailto:jenny@farmshed.org). You can also call Farmshed at (715) 544-6154.

With Love,

Jenny  
Executive Director - Central Rivers Farmshed