

# SOIL Sangre de Cristo celebrates one year anniversary—Speaker series to be held on April 22

by PJ Bergin

SOIL Sangre de Cristo held its first meeting virtually as the country started to close due to the pandemic in late March 2020. The timing was perfect. People in the communities throughout the south-central region of Colorado became concerned about keeping food on grocery store shelves and their families fed.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo supports local farmers, ranchers and other food producers, keeping our food economy resilient and sustainable. This is done by awarding 0% interest loans to these enterprises, furthering their success, a model based on Slow Money Principles developed by author/activist Woody Tasch. This mission is more important now than ever. Members in the community support SOIL Sangre de Cristo by becoming Investor Members with contributions to the loan fund. There are now over 60 members throughout the region.

Using the contributions from the Investor Members a permanent, member driven, revolving loan fund is created. The loans fund such crucial items as tractors, worker housing, irrigation, walk-in coolers, hoop houses and washing equipment.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo encompasses the south-central region of Colorado. This includes Chaffee, Saguache and Alamosa coun-

ties. It also includes the western part of Fremont County (Howard); Rio Grande County, including Del Norte and Monte Vista; Costilla; and Conejos counties. SOIL Sangre de Cristo is one of 4 regions in Colorado. The others are located in the Carbondale/Aspen area, Durango/Four Corners area, and Boulder.

The second round of loans was just completed, awarding loans to Badger Creek Ranch and Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy, LLC. To date SOIL Sangre de Cristo has awarded \$20,000.00 in the first year.

To celebrate the One-Year Anniversary, SOIL Sangre de Cristo is holding a membership drive, through April 30, recognizing the partnership with The Mighty Arrow Family Foundation. Since the beginning, The Mighty Arrow Family Foundation has awarded a 50% match to each of the contributions helping to significantly grow the loan fund. SOIL Sangre de Cristo is grateful for the support of The Mighty Arrow Family Foundation and its recognition of the importance of preserving the farming and ranching heritage of this region. To find out more about becoming a SOIL Sangre de Cristo Investor Member please visit [soilsangredecristo.org](http://soilsangredecristo.org).

SOIL Sangre de Cristo member Cindy Reinhardt, a resident of Crestone, is issuing an additional membership challenge to encour-



Jessica Larriva, owner and baker of Tumbleweed Bread, showing off her beautiful bread loaves.

age membership in the Crestone/Baca community. She will donate \$50 for each new member who lives in Crestone or the Baca Grande and joins before April 30. "This is an important element of food security and resiliency for our entire region, so I hope lots of locals will join," Reinhardt said.

Every fourth Thursday of the month SOIL Sangre de Cristo invites a guest to the "Speaker Series" to share a discussion on a topic about regenerative farming, investing in our local communities, soil health and other related fields of interest.

Please join us Thursday, April 22 at 7pm when Liz Carlisle from the Environmental Studies Program of the University of California, Santa Barbara and Jessica Larriva of Tumbleweed Bread Co. in Monte Vista will be the guest

speakers. Liz is a member of the Colorado "Grain Chain". Jessica uses local heritage grains as an ingredient for the breads she delivers to customers throughout the San Luis Valley. The health benefits of using heritage grains for ourselves and the environment will be discussed. Liz will also explain the history of heritage grains and their connection with the small flour mills that proliferated in the United States during the late 1800s. The Speaker Series will be held at 7pm. Please go to [soilsangredecristo.org](http://soilsangredecristo.org) and click on the RSVP in Upcoming Events to receive the Zoom link in your email box. Thank you!

To sign up for the SOIL Sangre de Cristo monthly newsletter please go to [soilsangredecristo.org](http://soilsangredecristo.org).

Other questions? Contact PJ Bergin at [soilsangredecristo@gmail.com](mailto:soilsangredecristo@gmail.com) or 719-221-3840.



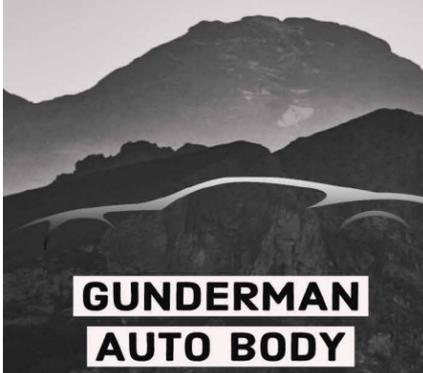
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