

 [Click to Print](#) or Select '**Print**' in [your browser](#) menu to print this document.

Page printed from: <http://www.globest.com/sites/erikamorphy/2018/02/12/federal-realtys-pike-rose-to-add-rooftop-farm/>

Federal Realty's Pike & Rose To Add Rooftop Farm

| By [Erika Morphy](#)

Published: February 12, 2018



Bethesda Row's farm

ROCKVILLE, MD—**Federal Realty Investment Trust** is adding a 17,000-square foot urban farm on the roofs of a 19-story [apartment](#) building and two flanking office buildings at its **Pike & Rose** development. The farm-top roof is part of an existing [relationship](#) it has with **Up Top Acres**, a locally-based startup that raises food on urban roofs. Their first collaboration with the REIT was a retrofit of [a roof](#) at its Bethesda Row project.

This new project at Pike & Rose will start producing food in April.

The farm is ideal for Pike & Rose — or any project with a green roof for that matter — because the buildings are LEED certified and the stormwater infrastructure necessary for green roofs lends itself well to a conversion to urban farming, **Chris Brown**, director of sustainability with Federal Realty, tells GlobeSt.com.

“Because of its size, it will produce a significant amount volume of food — probably something in the order of 25,000 pounds or more a year in produce,” Brown says. Federal Realty is planning to introduce a Farm Membership Program, offering food to the residents and office workers of the buildings, as well as the local community.

The rooftop farm fits in with Federal Realty’s larger goal, which is to integrate its buildings into the local community, Brown adds. “It’s an opportunity for people and neighbors to connect with the buildings through the food they eat.”

Federal Realty has experimented with urban farming before in a [separate initiative](#) it announced last year with Freight Farms, a Boston-based company that retrofits shipping containers with vertical farming technology that can yield acres’ worth of produce. The containers, which will be located in unused [parking spaces](#) in select Federal Realty shopping centers in Massachusetts, will be rented to freight farmers.

In the DC area, meanwhile, Brown hopes to see more urban farms develop on Federal Realty’s rooftops, especially at Pike & Rose.