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24 FAMILY FARMERS RECEIVE FUND-A-FARMER GRANTS FROM FACT

National nonprofit expands humane farming through pasture and certification grants

Chicago, IL – Today Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) awarded over \$57,000 in Fund-a-Farmer grants to independent family farmers across the country. Now in its fifth year, FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Project helps farmers improve animal welfare on their operations to ultimately increase the number of farm animals that are raised humanely.

This year the Fund-a-Farmer Project offered two distinct types of grants: one for pasture-based farming systems and the other for farm improvements that result in successful animal welfare certification. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® ([ASPCA](#)) is generously underwriting the Fund-a-Farmer Project’s 2017 Animal Welfare Certification Grants. This first-time grant category will make it possible for farmers to attain animal welfare certification from Animal Welfare Approved, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership (GAP).

“The ASPCA is proud to support FACT’s new animal welfare certification grant as we share the goal of making our farming system more humane and transparent,” said Daisy Freund, Director of Farm Animal Welfare at the ASPCA. “With rising consumer concern about the treatment of farm animals, there is significant opportunity for welfare-minded farmers to distinguish themselves in the marketplace by seeking independent verification of their animal care standards.”

FACT awarded 24 grants to farms located in 15 different states, with 15 pasture improvement grants and nine animal welfare certification grants. With these new grantees, FACT has now cumulatively awarded 91 grants to deserving family farmers across 27 states, directly impacting more than 66,000 animals since the project’s inception in 2012.

“Today, an increasing number of people want to know where their food comes from, who produces it, and how it was grown,” stated Larissa McKenna, FACT’s Humane Farming Program Director. “Small and mid-sized sustainable farms are essential to meeting consumer demand for humanely-raised food, but often face financial challenges due to high costs associated with economies of scale. Our organization supports these farms by funding projects that improve animal welfare and also help farmers increase their profit margins.”

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Shannon Ratcliff of Shannon Brook Farm in Watkins Glen, NY received a Fund-a-Farmer pasture improvement grant this year to design and build three mobile farrowing (birthing) huts for the farm's breeding sows. The project will provide the sows with comfortable environments within which they can safely give birth to their piglets, while having access to clean pasture. The huts also will protect the sows and piglets from predators and inclement weather.

“I love animals and believe that humanely raised farm animals are an important element of a balanced environment. We strive to offer the best possible life for each and every one of them by paying close attention to their needs and providing high-quality care,” Ratcliff said.

2017 Animal Welfare Certification grant recipients include:

1. [Bright Ide Acres](#) in Snohomish, WA
2. [Broad Brook Acres](#) in Preston, CT
3. [Franny's Farm](#) in Leicester, NC
4. [Fresh Coast Farm](#) in Eau Claire, MI
5. [Gordon Family Farm](#) in Roachdale, IN
6. [Health Hero Farm](#) in South Hero, VT
7. [Highland Spring Farm](#) in Oregon, WI
8. [Tate Cattle Company](#) in Hardinsburg, KY
9. [Whispering Glen Farm](#) in Brandenburg, KY

2017 Pasture Improvement grant recipients include:

1. [Back Creek](#) in Mount Ulla, NC
2. [Bedrock Farm](#) in Georgia, VT
3. [Bull City Farm](#) in Rougemont, NC
4. [Cricket Creek Farm](#) in Williamstown, MA
5. [Gilardi's Family Farm](#) in Petaluma, CA
6. [Happy Chick Farms](#) in Lockhart, TX
7. [Hawk Hill Farm](#) in East Canton, OH
8. [Heather Ridge Farm](#) in Preston Hollow, NY
9. [Misty Meadows Farm & Ranch](#) in Everson, WA
10. [Pomona Meadows](#) in Dexter, MI
11. [Root Down Farm](#) in Pescadero, CA
12. [Shannon Brook Farm](#) in Watkins Glen, NY
13. [Toddy Pond Farm](#) in Monroe, ME
14. [Walker Farm at Whortleberry Hill](#) in New Braintree, MA
15. [Wild Bunch Farm](#) in Mount Vernon, MO

For more information on FACT's Fund-a-Farmer Project, please visit www.fundafarmer.org. In addition to awarding grants, FACT also offers free webinars, conference scholarships, and an online farmer forum as part of our services benefiting family farmers. If you have questions about the Fund-a-Farmer Project, please contact Larissa McKenna at (773) 525-4952 or lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org.

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FACT promotes the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs. Learn more at www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org.