FACT NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Harry Rhodes to Lead National Farm Animal Welfare and Food Safety Organization

(Chicago, IL – June 4, 2019) Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), a national nonprofit that promotes the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs, this week named Harry Rhodes as its new Executive Director. Mr. Rhodes will replace FACT’s long-time director Richard Wood who is retiring after 24 years of service to the organization.

Prior to joining FACT, Mr. Rhodes was a Co-Founder and Executive Director of Growing Home in Chicago, which grew into the leading organic urban farming organization in the city, producing over 30,000 lbs. of organic vegetables annually, and in the process engaging an underserved community, where he worked to transform over 500 lives through urban agriculture. Mr. Rhodes shared his excitement with us:

I am honored and excited to be FACT’s new Executive Director. I have big shoes to fill following Rich Wood, and look forward to continuing and growing upon his legacy. I have worked in the organic farming realm for nearly 20 years, and understand the importance of healthy food for healthy communities. Having worked closely with underserved communities throughout Chicago who do not have access to healthy food, I have come to believe that everyone has a right to healthy food. FACT’s mission is closely aligned with my core values, and I look forward to working with all of FACT’s terrific stakeholders to make that mission a reality.

FACT was founded in 1982 and has been under the leadership of Richard Wood since 1995. Under Mr. Wood’s direction, FACT helped to create a market for eggs from uncaged hens in the 1990’s. In 2002, FACT became a founding member of the Keep Antibiotic Working Coalition and has provided leadership ever since. More recently, Mr. Wood helped FACT to launch its Fund-a-Farmer Grant Project which has cumulatively awarded 157 grants totaling over $355,000.00 to family farmers across 34 states, directly impacting more than 97,000 animals since 2012.

Upon his retirement Mr. Wood observed that “working together, FACT’s Board of Directors, staff, individual donors and supporting foundations have truly promoted the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs, and helped consumers make humane and healthy choices. This response to FACT’s mission gives me a strong sense of accomplishment, and with the selection of Harry Rhodes along with our current staffing, gives me hope for a strong FACT future.”

Mr. Rhodes was named after a 6-month search process led by FACT’s Board of Directors. “With our choice of Harry Rhodes, we have secured FACT’s future for years to come. We are thrilled to have found such a worthy successor to Rich Wood. Harry will build on Rich’s enormous accomplishments just as Rich built upon those of FACT’s founder, Robert Brown,” shared Robin Fitelson, Chair of FACT’s Board of Directors.

Please visit FACT’s website for more information. In addition to its farmer grants, FACT offers free webinars, scholarships, and a mentorship program for livestock and poultry farmers who wish to improve the welfare of their farm animals. FACT also advocates for strong corporate and federal policies to end both the use of veterinary drugs known to be harmful to consumers and the overuse of antibiotics on farms. Please contact Harry Rhodes at (773) 525-4952 ext. 1 or hrhodes@foodanimalconcerns.org with questions about FACT’s programs and work.

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