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Grants Available for Livestock and Poultry Farmers to Improve Animal Welfare or Build Capacity

FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Grants Also Improve Profits for Family Farmers

(Chicago, IL – October 2, 2019) Starting today, farmers who wish to improve the welfare of their farm animals or build capacity and expand their operations may apply for a Fund-a-Farmer Grant from Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT).

Since 2012, FACT has awarded 157 Fund-a-Farmer Grants totaling over $355,000, directly impacting more than 97,000 animals on independent family farms across 34 states. This year at least $95,000 will be available, with the grants ranging between $2,500 for individual farmers to $5,000 for joint projects that will benefit multiple farms.

A 2019 survey of past grant recipients found that 99 percent reported improvement in animal welfare as a result of their funded project, and 97 percent had improved the farms’ financial sustainability by creating recurring cost savings, increasing customers, and ultimately improving profits, with an average profit increase of $4,735/year.

“FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer grants are an excellent example of how working directly with farmers can improve farm animal welfare and farm profitability,” said Larissa McKenna, FACT’s Humane Farming Program Director. “In addition to creating healthier and more humane living conditions for farm animals, our Fund-a-Farmer Grants also help farmers undertake needed projects that might otherwise not be possible. It’s a win-win for farmers and their animals.”

This year FACT will offer three distinct types of grants focused on: 1) pasture-based farming systems, 2) farm improvements that result in successful animal welfare certification, and 3) capacity building projects for welfare-certified farmers to scale up operations and expand their reach. FACT will provide funds to working, independent family farmers located in the continental U.S. who raise beef cattle, broiler chickens, dairy cows, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep, and/or turkeys. One application per farm will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted online by December 2, 2019. Grants will be awarded in February 2020.

The Pasture Improvement Grants of up to $2,500 are specifically for projects that help farms transition to a pasture-based system, expand the animals’ access to well-managed pasture, and/or improve the quality of pasture. Eligible projects include revamping existing housing to encourage outdoor access; building new housing, such as portable houses for frequent rotation of animals; installing water systems to improve water delivery to animals on pasture; and purchasing and installing fencing to enable safe and effective pasture access and rotational grazing.

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The **Animal Welfare Certification Grants** of up to $2,500 are specifically for on-farm improvements that would help farmers to become Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Animal Welfare Certified, specifically steps 4 – 5+. Eligible projects are highly dependent upon the requirements of meaningful third-party certifications but include designing and constructing humane handling systems; purchasing fencing materials; adding enrichment materials or infrastructure; constructing of low stress weaning pens; and building new or repurposing old mobile housing.

The **Capacity Building Grants** are specifically for welfare-certified farmers and ranchers who already hold one of the three certifications above. FACT will fund on-farm projects that would help these farmers scale up their operations while maintaining a high level of welfare, as well as projects that would enable farmers to improve their bottom lines through improved marketing, product development, distribution, and education efforts. This year applicants are encouraged to propose projects that address barriers to the growth of welfare-certified farming or that provide welfare-certified producers with access to new markets. Grants of up to $2,500 are available for individual farmers; grants of up to $5,000 are available for joint projects that would benefit multiple farms.

The **ASPCA®** (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is generously underwriting this year’s Animal Welfare Certification Grants and Capacity Building Grants for welfare-certified farmers.

“With demand for welfare-certified food growing rapidly across the country, it’s critical that we support farmers to address barriers and expand their presence in the marketplace,” said Kara Shannon, Senior Manager of Farm Animal Welfare at the ASPCA. “The ASPCA is thrilled to fund FACT’s Animal Welfare Certification and Capacity Building Grants for the fourth year in a row, which represent some of the only dedicated funding options available to farmers working toward a more humane and transparent food system.”

FACT and the ASPCA will offer an online information session about the grant application process on Tuesday, October 29 from 3pm – 4pm EST. Farmers may register online for this free session at [www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/webinar](http://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/webinar).

For grant application guidelines, eligibility requirements, and to access the online grant applications, please visit [www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants](http://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants). In addition to awarding grants, FACT also offers free webinars, conference scholarships, and a mentorship program for livestock and poultry farmers who wish to improve the welfare of their farm animals. If you have questions about FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Grants, please contact Humane Farming Program Director Larissa McKenna at (773) 525-4952 ext. 2 or grants@foodanimalconcerns.org.

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**FACT is a national non-profit organization that promotes the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs. Learn more at** [www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org](http://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org)