For Immediate Release:
Contact: Sean Crowley, 202-495-8520-c, seancrowley57@gmail.com
Larissa McKenna, Humane Farming Program Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust, (773) 525-4952, lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org
Harry Rhodes, Exec. Dir., Food Animal Concerns Trust, (773) 525-4952, hrhodes@foodanimalconcerns.org

NATIONAL NONPROFIT AWARDS GRANTS TO 44 FAMILY FARMERS IN 22 STATES

Grants boost humane farming, environment sustainability, and farm profits

(Chicago, IL – Feb. 25, 2020) Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), a national nonprofit that promotes the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs, this month awarded $105,000 in Fund-a-Farmer Grants to 44 independent farmers, the highest total amount awarded during a single year in the grants’ eight-year history. The grants range from $840 to $2,500 and were awarded for projects that improve the welfare of farm animals and increase the capacity of farmers across the country. The individual grants and recipients are listed at the bottom of this news release and at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/funded-projects

This year FACT awarded three types of Fund-a-Farmer Grants:

(1) Pasture Improvement Grants 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.


(3) Capacity Building Grants for farmers who already hold one of the three certifications above.

As in past years, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) is generously underwriting both FACT’s Animal Welfare Certification Grants and Capacity Building Grants that support continued growth through infrastructure, marketing, and sales efforts.

“The ASPCA is thrilled to fund our fourth year of FACT grants to elevate innovative farmers leading the way toward a more humane food system,” said Kara Shannon, senior manager of farm animal welfare at the ASPCA. “As demand for higher welfare products outstrips the supply, we’re committed to supporting the growth of welfare-certified farming and helping farmers overcome barriers to entry and expansion in the marketplace.”

The 44 grants FACT awarded included 26 Pasture Improvement Grants, 11 Animal Welfare Certification Grants, and seven Capacity Building Grants. Since 2012, FACT has cumulatively awarded 201 grants totaling over $460,000 to family farmers across 37 states, directly impacting more than 116,000 animals.

A 2020 survey of past grant recipients found that the grants have produced a wide range of long-term benefits. Overall, 97 percent of the farmers reported improved animal welfare, 95 percent experienced a positive environmental impact, and 87 percent had improved their farm’s financial sustainability by creating recurring cost savings, increasing

(773) 525-4952 • foodanimalconcernstrust.org
customers, and ultimately improving profits as a result of their funded project. Individual farmers reported increased biodiversity, less soil compaction, healthier animals, and a higher quality of life on their operations.

“One of the best ways to improve farm animal welfare is to partner with family farmers and ranchers. Their commitment to sustainable, regenerative agriculture practices is commendable, and FACT is proud to support them through our Fund-a-Farmer Grants,” said Larissa McKenna, FACT’s Humane Farming Program Director. “Not only do we see positive impacts during the grant year itself, but we’ve found that the funded projects continue to benefit the farmers and their animals for years after the initial investment.”

Jennifer Bassman, the owner of Heritage Haus Farm in **Berkshire, NY**, received a $2,150 Fund-a-Farmer Animal Welfare Certification Grant this year to construct outdoor farrowing areas for her pigs to give birth in, as well as separate living spaces for her boars who cannot be integrated with the rest of the herd. In addition to keeping the animals safe and protected on pasture, this project will help the farm to become Certified Animal Welfare Approved.

“Making these two improvements will not only get us much closer to becoming Certified Animal Welfare Approved, it will also improve the living conditions for our boars and enable more of our animals to live outside for a greater part of their lives. This is really important to us generally as we believe animals are happiest living in the most natural settings possible,” Bassman said.

Gus and Margo Liszka, the owners of Naked Acres Farm near **Portland, OR**, received a $2,480 Capacity-Building Grant to fence additional acreage for rotational grazing of their sheep and beef cattle. The farmers raise Certified Animal Welfare Approved dairy goats, beef cattle, laying hens and sheep.

“With access to more pasture we will be able to increase the amount of meat we can produce. We expect to be able to increase the number of meat CSA shares by 100% by the end of the first year. Currently, we cannot meet the demand for local, grassfed, pasture-based, high animal welfare meats,” Liszka said.

Chuck and Molly Trowbridge of Prairie Farmstead, located an hour north of **Dallas, TX**, received a $2,500 Pasture Improvement Grant to improve their pasture-based water systems for their herd of 45 beef cattle and flock of 85 laying hens. This project will decrease the animals’ distance to water; it will also allow the farmers to utilize more pasture for grazing of all livestock.

“Our funded project will improve the quality of our pastures and the health of our animals. It will help us regenerate our land and increase our forage capacity to nourish our animals,” Trowbridge said.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2020 Animal Welfare Certification Grant recipients</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Alluvial Farms</strong> in Everson, WA, $2,500</td>
<td>7. <strong>Jumbuck Farm</strong> in Corbin, KY, $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Black Dog Farm</strong> in Livingston, MT, $2,450</td>
<td>8. <strong>N bar A Ranch</strong> in Harmony, ME, $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>BOTL Farm</strong> in Ashford, CT, $2,500</td>
<td>9. <strong>Pink Moon Farm</strong> in Eatonville, WA, $2,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Deep Roots Farm</strong> in Chepachet, RI, $2,500</td>
<td>10. <strong>Seven Gables Farms</strong> in Hobart, IN, $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Graceful Acres</strong> in Johnsonville, NY, $2,500</td>
<td>11. <strong>Smoky Mountain Mangalitsa</strong> in Waynesville, NC, $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Heritage Haus Farm</strong> in Berkshire, NY, $2,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020 Capacity Building Grant recipients are:

1. Back Creek Angus in Mount Ulla, NC, $2,500
2. Circle O Livestock LLC in Vale, OR, $2,500
3. Hoofprint Cheese Company, LLC in Millbrook, NY, $2,500
4. Naked Acres Farm in Beavercreek, OR, $2,480
5. Old Dutch Hops in Hillsboro, OH, $2,500
6. Pigeon River Farm in Clintonville, WI, $2,500
7. Thomas Land & Cattle in Meno, OK, $2,500

2020 Pasture Improvement Grant recipients are:

1. AM Ranch in Penn Valley, CA, $2,500
2. Avrom Farm in Ripon, WI, $2,500
3. Bedrock Farm in Saint Albans, VT, $2,500
4. Bishop Katahdins in Newfield, NJ, $2,500
5. Blue Ox Farm in Wheeler, WI, $2,500
6. Borbonus Family Farm in Blairsville, PA, $2,500
7. C and J Farms in Chenango Forks, NY, $2,500
8. Climbing Tree Farm in New Lebanon, NY, $2,444
9. Crosswinds Farm & Creamery in Ovid, NY, $2,479
10. Cylon Rolling Acres LLC in Deer Park, WI, $2,500
11. Gander & Goose Farms LLC in Chilton, WI, $1,068
12. Halbur's Heavenly Hill in Fond du Lac, WI, $840
13. Hermit Creek Farm in High Bridge, WI, $2,500
14. J & A Farms in Pantego, NC, $2,500
15. Kaesebier Farms in Elkhart, IL, $2,500
16. Laughing Earth Farm in Cropseyville, NY, $2,293
17. Looking Glass Creamery in Columbus, NC, $2,500
18. Lydia’s Flock of Icelandic and Shetland Sheep in Bellingham, WA, $2,500
19. Maple Bottom Farm in Dawson, PA, $2,500
20. Mashie Farm in Elkins, AR, $2,500
21. MT Cross Farms, Inc. in Twin Bridges, MT, $2,490
22. Mulberry Creek Farm LLC in Elk Point, SD, $2,500
23. Orchard Hill Farm in Crown Point, IN, $2,500
24. Prairie Farmstead in Sherman, TX, $2,500
25. South Stitch Farm in Athens, OH, $1,326
26. Sugar Creek Farms in Allegan, MI, $2,500

A summary of each of the funded projects is available at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/funded-projects

For more information on FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Grants and the other services we provide to family farmers, please visit foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/. In addition to the 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. Please contact Larissa McKenna, Humane Farming Program Director, at (773) 525-4952 or lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org with questions about any of FACT’s farmer services.

# # #

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