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FACT Awards Biggest Batch of Fund-a-Farmer Grants Ever!

Drum roll please ... announcing our 2020 crop of Fund-a-Farmer Grant recipients! In February, FACT awarded 44 grants totaling $105,000 to farmers located across 22 different states. This is the largest number of grants we’ve ever given in a single year. We are thrilled to announce our 2020 crop of Fund-a-Farmer, Certification Grants, and Capacity Building Grants for farm animals and increase the capacity of farmers to improve the welfare of farm animals and increase the capacity of farmers across the country. This year we offered three types of grants: Pasture Improvement Grants, Animal Welfare Certification Grants, and Capacity Building Grants for welfare-certified farmers.

We are grateful for all of the donors and supporters who made these grants possible, including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) for generously underwriting our FACT Awards. We are also grateful to our funders, who made these grants possible, including the ASPCA, the ASPCA Pet Trust, and other organizations and individuals. Our 2020 Fund-a-Farmer Grant recipients are:

Our 2020 Certification Grant recipients are:
1. Alluvial Farms in Everson, WA
2. Black Dog Farm in Livingston, MT
3. BOTL Farm in Ashford, CT
4. Deep Roots Farm in Cheshapt, RI
5. Graceful Acres in Johnsonville, NY
6. Heritage Haus Farm in Berkshire, NY
7. Jumbuck Farm in Corbin, KY
8. N bar A Ranch in Harmony, ME
9. Pink Moon Farm in Eatonville, WA
10. Seven Gables Farms in Hobart, IN
11. Smoky Mountain Mangalitsa in Waynesville, NC

Our 2020 Capacity Building Grant recipients are:
1. Back Creek Angus in Mount Ulla, NC
2. Circle Q Livestock LLC in Vale, OR
3. Hoofprint Cheese Company in Millbrook, NY
4. Naked Acres Farm in Beaver Creek, OR
5. Old Dutch Hops in Hillsboro, OH
6. Pigeon River Farm in Clintonville, WI
7. Thomas Land & Cattle in Meno, OK

Our 2020 Pasture Improvement Grant recipients are:
1. AM Ranch in Penn Valley, CA
2. Avrom Farm in Ripon, WI
3. Bedrock Farm in Saint Albans, VT
4. Bishop Katahdins in Newfield, NJ
5. Blue Ox Farm in Wheeler, WI
6. Barbonus Family Farm in Brazoisa, PA
7. C & J Farms in Chendago Forks, NY
8. Climbing Tree Farm in New Lebanon, NY
9. Crosswinds Farm & Creamery in Ovid, NY
10. Cynlon Rolling Acres LLC in Deer Park, WI
11. Gander & Goose Farms LLC in Chilton, WI
12. Halbur’s Heavenly Hill in Fond du Lac, WI
13. Hermit Creek Farm in High Ridge, WI
14. J & A Farms in Ponteico, NC
15. Koesbiemer Farms in Elkhart, IL
16. Laughing Earth Farm in Cropseyville, NY
17. Looking Glass Farms in Columbus, NC
18. Lydia’s Farm in Bellingham, WA
19. Maple Bottom Farm in Dawson, PA
20. Moshie Farm in Elksee, IA
21. MT Cross Farms, Inc. in Twin Bridges, MT
22. Mulberry Creek Farm LLC in Elk Point, SD
23. Orchard Hill Farm in Crown Point, IN
24. Prairie Farmstead in Sherman, TX
25. South Stilch Farm in Athens, OH
26. Sugar Creek Farms in Allegan, MI

The funded projects ranged from erecting fencing to protect animals on pasture, to constructing mobile housing, to installing water lines so that animals have access to clean, fresh water at all times. We will share news and stories from the field throughout the year. Please visit our website at foodanimalconcerntrus.org/funded-projects to learn more about each of the fund-a-farmer grants and projects.

Our 2020 Pasture Improvement Grant recipients are:
1. Alluvial Farms in Everson, WA
2. Black Dog Farm in Livingston, MT
3. BOTL Farm in Ashford, CT
4. Deep Roots Farm in Chepachet, RI
5. Graceful Acres in Johnsonville, NY
6. Heritage Haus Farm in Berkshire, NY
7. Jumbuck Farm in Corbin, KY
8. N bar A Ranch in Harmony, ME
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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. Individual farmers reported increased biodiversity, less soil compaction, healthier animals, and a higher quality of life on their operations.

For example, Chuck and Molly Trowbridge of Prairie Farmstead, located about an hour north of Dallas, TX, received a $2,500 Pasture Improvement Grant this year 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 pasture for grazing of all livestock. We are fortunate to nourish our cows and hens,” Trowbridge said.

The funded projects will benefit nearly 19,500 animals each year.

In 2018, farmers Mark Brady and Katie Kennedy of Timberfeast Farm received a Fund-a-Farmer Grant from FACT. Timberfeast is located in Chatsworth, Illinois, about 80 miles south of Chicago. The farmers raise all of their animals outdoors and practice “rotational grazing,” which means that the animals are moved frequently to fresh pasture. The animals spend their lives outside, breathing fresh air, and eating bugs and grass as they please.

The FACT grant enabled the farmers to build a portable “egg mobile” chicken coop and purchase a portable fencing system to safely house and rotationally graze their flock of 200 laying hens. Check out the egg mobile below!

Mark and Katie report that the project has been a resounding success. The coop provides a predator-proof home for their hens to roost in at night, and the fencing allows the birds to live outside safely during the day. In fact, they have experienced zero predation with their pasture-based egg operation, which is truly a remarkable feat. Predation is one of the biggest problems for pasture-based operations.

In addition, the project has made it possible for them to expand their pasture into areas of the farm that had never been grazed before. They report that both animal welfare and their farm’s financial sustainability have significantly improved as a result of the FACT-funded project.

Farm Profile: Timberfeast Farm
FDA delays ban on carcinogenic pig drug while sales boom and drug maker manufactures more

In April 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it was banning the use of the swine drug carbadox because there was new evidence that its use in pigs led to cancer-causing residues in pork products. Almost immediately, the drug maker Phibro announced that it would challenge the ban.

Under U.S. law, a drug company has the right to challenge the FDA through a formal hearing process when the agency wants to ban a drug. These contested withdrawals usually take from five to 20 years.

In this case, the FDA halted the withdrawal proceedings in March 2018 to allow the company to gather new data to support continued use of the drug. In the meantime, carbadox is still on the market to gather new data to support continued use of the drug. In this case, the FDA halted the withdrawal proceedings in March 2018 to allow the company to gather new data to support continued use of the drug. In the meantime, carbadox is still on the market to gather new data to support continued use of the drug.

The company clearly believes that it can convince FDA to reverse its decision to ban this drug. A 2017 USDA survey found that about half of US pigs are fed the cancer-causing drug. This is up from 2002 when it was estimated that less than 25 percent of pigs were given carbadox.

In addition to creating dangerous residues in pork, farm workers are exposed to the drug through contact with feed or feed dust when working in buildings where it is fed. This is terrible for consumers and unsafe for workers on the farms where the drug is used. It is also totally unnecessary.

The drug can only legally be used to promote growth and to control two stomach diseases in pigs: Salmonella and swine dysentery.

Feeding a cancer-causing drug to pigs to make them grow faster is plainly wrong.

The stomach bugs mentioned previously are not very common and can be managed by better hygiene and vaccination. If pigs do become sick there are other antibiotics approved that do not lead to cancer-causing residues in the meat.

One likely reason carbadox use is going up - as seen on the graph below - is that producers do not need a veterinarian’s order to use it with their animals. This means that any pig producer can purchase this drug from a feed supplier without having a veterinarian determine that it is needed to treat disease.

Carbadox Use on Pig Nursery Farms

We are worried that the FDA is going to back down from its plan to ban this drug. The drug maker clearly believes that the agency will ultimately allow its continued use.

FACT has reached out to grocery chains and pork processors in the past. This spring we are going to go back to these companies, as well as contact the biggest restaurant chains, and urge them to stop buying pork produced with carbadox.

It has been nearly four years since the FDA identified this as a problem. It is long past time to get pork contaminated with cancer-causing residues off of peoples’ plates and to keep farm workers from being exposed to dangerous feed dust that contains carbadox.

As we make progress on this developing issue, we will be sure to keep you updated. Stay tuned!

Let’s Give FDA the Ability to Investigate Factory Farms!

Every year approximately 48 million Americans become sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die as a result of foodborne disease. Despite the huge size of the problem, the US federal food safety system is complicated and full of loopholes.

FDA is in charge of shell eggs, milk, seafood other than catfish and pretty much all other food and drinks. FDA is also in charge of the safety of animal drugs and feed. FDA can make produce farms, egg farms, dairies, fish farms, and food processors take steps to stop foodborne illness. It can take action if animal farms are using drugs incorrectly or if farms use unsafe animal feed.

However, the government currently has no authority to trace foodborne outbreaks back to factory farms. In many cases factory farms are the source of the outbreak but farm owners (unlike stores, restaurants, and meat packers) can deny access to investigators and prevent them from understanding how, when, and where an outbreak may have started.

Take action! Please urge your members of Congress to support the Expanded Food Safety Investigation Act of 2019 (H.R. 5415 and S.2958). This is federal legislation that requires factory farms to allow FDA to test for superbugs in order to more quickly find the source of a foodborne disease outbreak.

Visit foodanimalconcerntrust.org/action-center to contact Congress or call the Congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to speak to your Representative and Senators.

Bacon with a side of cancer?

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Thank you.

FACT would like to honor those who continued their commitment to our cause over the past year through generous legacy, honorarium, and memorial gifts. We honor these donors daily as FACT works toward our vision that all food-producing animals will be raised in a healthy and humane manner.

Without the loyal and generous support of our donors, past and present, FACT would not be able to achieve the work that we do promoting humane farming and food safety. Thank you. We are grateful for the support that we receive, and thank each of you for the impact that your generosity allows us to make.

Planned Giving and Bequests
Elizabeth A. Buley, FACT Supporter since 2001
Glenn and Lois Graham, FACT Supporters since 1995
Sherlyn M. Kistner, FACT Supporter since 1998
Mildred A. Lillis, FACT Supporter since 1998
Joyce D. Nitsche, FACT Supporter since 2007

Memorial and Honorarium Giving
Robyn L. Christenson
Carolyn Grodinsky
Phil and Sherry Meeks
D.P. Miller Fund, Princeton Area Community Foundation
Jill Newburg
Janis W. Notz
Monica Stabin
Priscilla Trubin
Dean and Debbie Zemel

Meet Maria Bachich, FACT Supporter Since 1998

For 50 years Maria Bachich lived on a small farm in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, 15 miles north of Ithaca. When she first moved there, “It was beautiful. It was paradise.”

For personal reasons Maria lived in New York City for nine years during the 1990’s. When she returned to her farm things had changed. Large factory farms had taken over the region. The atmosphere had changed. The smells were different.

There was a wonderful creek near her house. When she returned she found it covered with algae. She put together a team from Ithaca that discovered very high levels of e-coli in the creek and in the nearby lake. Cows from the factory farms spread liquid manure in fields that ran off into the lake. It affected the land and the water. “The cruelty to animals was hard to fathom.”

She once visited a chicken farmer nearby and found the treatment of chickens even worse than that of cows. There were 12 little chicks in one small cage.

“...You are advocating for farm animals. Nobody else does it. That’s why I send money to FACT.”

It was around this time that Maria discovered FACT. “When I found out about FACT, I thought that at last someone is addressing these problems. You are advocating for farm animals. Nobody else does it. That’s why I send money to FACT. Most people aren’t aware of the cruelty being done to these animals. I wish that FACT was bigger, and that more people were doing this work.”

Maria has been supporting FACT since 1998. In recent years she sold her farm and retired to Florida. She continues to support FACT, and urges others to support organic and humanely-raised food.

Your support improves the welfare of farm animals and the safety of our food.

Without people like you, FACT would not be able to achieve the impact that we have on thousands of animals, hundreds of farmers, and countless consumers who deserve to have safe, healthy, and ethically-produced food.

One-time or recurring gifts
To donate to FACT, simply send us a check made payable to “FACT” in the envelope enclosed. Alternatively, you can make a one-time or monthly donation at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/donate or phone us at 773-525-4952.

Your Legacy: Planned Giving & Bequests
As you plan your philanthropic legacy, please consider including a provision in your will that includes FACT as a beneficiary. Please visit foodanimalconcernstrust.org/your-legacy or call our office at 773-525-4952 for more details.

Matching Gifts
Your employer, or your spouse’s employer, may match your donation to FACT – sometimes even triple the amount that you donate. Typically a matching gift entails a short form that you fill out through your Human Resources Department and then mail to FACT for our staff to complete and submit.

Company Giving
Some companies allow employees to submit organizations or causes they personally support to be considered for company-wide gifts, which can include local grants, holiday give-backs, or employee funding drives.

AmazonSmile
Bookmarks smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3172605 or search for “Food Animal Concerns Trust” and support FACT every time you shop.

Stock Donations
You can also make a stock donation. The shares should be delivered to: Account Name: Food Animal Concerns Trust Brokerage Firm: SEI Private Trust Company, DTC #2663, Brokerage Account #668572

Please inform our office by email or phone of the details of your stock donation.

If you have any questions regarding your donation, please contact Harry Rhodes at hrhodes@foodanimalconcerns.org or at 773-525-4952. Thank you again for your kind support.
You can rest assured that your gift is used responsibly and effectively, as **FACT holds the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar**, a nationally recognized charity watchdog. Few nonprofits attain this high level of recognition.

**Contact Us:**
773-525-4952  
www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org  
info@foodanimalconcerns.org