



**FOOD ANIMAL CONCERNS TRUST**  
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**FACT TO CELEBRATE FAMILY FARMERS ON FOOD DAY**  
**National non-profit organization to increase number of Fund-a-Farmer grants this year**

Chicago, IL – For the second consecutive year, Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) will commemorate Food Day by opening a new round of grant making through its **Fund-a-Farmer Project**. The **Fund-a-Farmer Project** is a competitive microgrants project designed to empower livestock and poultry farmers across the nation. FACT plans to greatly increase the number of grants awarded this year, and expects to help dozens of farmers implement projects that will improve animal welfare on their operations.

In response to an emerging national consciousness, many prominent voices for change in the food movement have rallied around Food Day. Food Day is a nationwide campaign to promote healthy, affordable food grown in a sustainable, humane way. Last year, more than 30 governors and mayors proclaimed October 24 Food Day and the day was observed in all 50 states at over 20,000 organized events. This year, Food Day will garner even more attention and excitement around important food issues.

FACT is excited to celebrate its **Fund-a-Farmer Project** on Food Day and be part of the growing movement to reform the American food system one farm at a time. After thirty years of working on farm animal welfare issues, FACT has learned that one of the best ways to positively impact farm animal welfare is to work directly with farmers. Farmers often want to make on-farm changes to give their animals a better life, but sometimes need financial assistance to make it happen.

Through this project, FACT provides small grants to qualifying livestock and poultry farmers who wish to improve animal welfare on their farms. The organization awards grants of up to \$1,500 for projects designed to help farmers (1) transition to pasture-based systems, (2) improve the marketing of their humane products, or (3) more generally enrich the conditions in which their farm animals are raised.

The first year of the project exceeded expectations. After careful review of eligible applications, FACT awarded over \$13,000 to nine farmers across the country. This year's funded projects include building portable housing for a flock of broiler hens; improving access to pasture for farrowing sows; installing frost freeze hydrants on pasture land for beef cattle; and purchasing fencing to enable pasturing of laying hens, broiler chickens, sows, and piglets. A complete list of the funded farms is available at [www.fundafarmer.org](http://www.fundafarmer.org).

Expanding upon the project's successful first year, FACT plans to provide funding to at least 15 livestock farms in the coming round of grants. This would enable family farmers across the country to improve the lives of hundreds – if not thousands – of animals. FACT will officially begin accepting new applications from farmers today, with the application period running through May 1, 2013.

“In order for a humane food system to thrive, smaller-scale, sustainable operations must have access to funding opportunities to keep them competitive with large-scale operations. Our **Fund-a-Farmer Project** is just one piece, one step in the right direction,” FACT's Executive Director Richard Wood explains.

For more information about applying for a Fund-a-Farmer grant, contact Humane Farming Program Manager Lisa Isenhart at [grants@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:grants@foodanimalconcerns.org).

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*Founded in 1982, FACT is a national nonprofit organization based in Chicago that promotes humane and healthy farms through science-based advocacy, consumer education, and support for humane farmers.*