



FOOD ANIMAL CONCERNS TRUST  
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**Grants up to \$2,500 to be awarded to Humane Livestock & Poultry Farmers:  
FACT's Fund-a-Farmer Project grants will improve animal welfare on family farms**

Chicago, IL – Starting today, farmers seeking to improve the welfare of their farm animals may apply for grant funding from Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT). FACT is calling for applications for its [Fund-a-Farmer Project](#), which provides grants up to \$2,500 to qualifying livestock and poultry farmers for projects designed to improve farm animal welfare. This year the Fund-a-Farmer Project will offer two distinct types of grants, one centered on pasture-based farming systems, and the other focused on farm improvements that result in successful animal welfare certification. The [ASPCA](#)<sup>®</sup> (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is generously underwriting the Fund-a-Farmer Project's animal welfare certification grants.

The **pasture-based systems grants** are specifically for projects that help farms transition and/or improve access to pasture-based systems. FACT is interested in providing funds to working, independent family farmers that raise pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, dairy cows, turkeys and/or beef cattle. Applications will only be considered from farms already considered highly welfare-oriented, as determined by holding or substantially working toward a humane certification for their livestock or poultry.

FACT will consider funding for a variety of projects that are designed to achieve improved animal welfare within a pasture-based system, including projects that would: Revamp existing housing to encourage outdoor access; Build new housing, such as portable houses for frequent rotation of animals; Improve water delivery to animals on pasture; Improve quality of pasture in terms of animal nutrition and health of land; Increase shade and/or protect against the elements; Provide effective & safe fencing of pasture; and/or Allow multi-species rotational grazing. **Applications must be submitted online by November 21, 2016 for grants that will be awarded in March 2017.**

The **animal welfare certification grants** are specifically for on-farm improvements that are required for successful application and attainment of one of three specified animal welfare certifications. This **first-time grant category** will make it possible for farmers to attain animal welfare certification from [Animal Welfare Approved](#), [Certified Humane](#), or [GAP](#) (specifically steps 4 – 5+). These farmers would be eligible to apply for funding to underwrite on-farm improvements that are directly related to certification requirements, which will allow them to successfully attain one of these animal welfare certifications.

“The ASPCA is proud to support FACT’s new animal welfare certification grant as we share the goal of building a more humane and transparent farming system.” said Daisy Freund, Director of Farm Animal Welfare at the ASPCA. “With rising consumer concern about the treatment of farm animals, there is a significant opportunity for welfare-minded farmers to distinguish themselves in the marketplace by seeking independent verification of their animal care standards.”

The new animal welfare certification grants are generously supported by the ASPCA. **Applications must be submitted online by November 21, 2016 for grants that will be awarded in March 2017.**



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“FACT is delighted to expand the Fund-a-Farmer Project’s grant program this year by offering additional funding opportunities for farmers who prioritize the welfare of their animals,” said Larissa McKenna, FACT’s Humane Farming Program Director.

Since the Fund-a-Farmer Project’s inception in 2012, FACT has awarded 67 Fund-a-Farmer grants to independent family farmers across 26 states, directly impacting more than 54,000 animals.

“I feel so fortunate to have been selected for a FACT grant,” said Cherrie Nolden of 1der Acres Farm in Wisconsin, who received a Fund-a-Farmer Project grant this year. “The grant allowed me to share the welfare-oriented poultry production methods that I’ve been using for 15 years with other family farmers.”

“FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Project is an excellent example of how working directly with farmers can improve farm animal welfare,” McKenna continued. “In addition to creating a higher standard of animal care on farms across the country, our Fund-a-Farmer Project also helps farmers undertake needed on-farm changes that otherwise could not happen.”

FACT will offer an online information session on the Fund-a-Farmer grant application process on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 6pm – 7pm CST. Farmers may register online for this free session at [www.fundafarmer.org/webinar](http://www.fundafarmer.org/webinar).

For grant application guidelines, eligibility requirements, and to access the online grant application, please visit [www.fundafarmer.org](http://www.fundafarmer.org). In addition to awarding grants, FACT also offers free webinars, conference scholarships, and an online forum for livestock and poultry farmers. If you have questions about the Fund-a-Farmer Project, please contact Humane Farming Program Director Larissa McKenna at (773) 525-4952 or [grants@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:grants@foodanimalconcerns.org).

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*FACT promotes humane farming and the safe production of meat, milk, and eggs. Learn more at [www.foodanimalconcerns.org](http://www.foodanimalconcerns.org).*