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NEW FARMER GRANTS WILL PROMOTE HUMANE AND SUSTAINABLE FARMS

FACT's Healthy & Humane Farm Funds to Improve Farm Animal Welfare

Chicago – Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is thrilled to launch its new Healthy & Humane Farm Funds Project today. Through this project, FACT will provide small grants to qualifying livestock and poultry farmers who wish to improve animal welfare on their farms. The organization will award 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 the farm animals are raised.

FACT is nonprofit organization that promotes humane and healthy farms through science-based advocacy, consumer education, and support for humane farmers. Responding to increasing consumer demand for humanely raised products and feedback from farmers, FACT is now accepting applications for the Healthy & Humane Farm Funds. Applications are due by April 1, 2012 and grants will be awarded in June 2012. Applications will be reviewed anonymously by members of FACT's staff and a committee of sustainable livestock farmers.

To be eligible, farms must raise at least one of the following animal species: pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, dairy cows and/or beef cattle. Proposed on-farm animal welfare improvement projects must impact at least one of these species. Grants will also be made only to farmers for a project on a working, independent family farm. More information about grant guidelines, eligibility requirements, project examples, and the application can be downloaded at www.humanefarmfunds.org.

FACT values how farmers care for their animals. In our opinion, 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.

FACT's Executive Director Richard Wood explains, "We recognize that farmers have the technical expertise to make their farms more humane. With the help of our grants, they can make real improvements that result in healthier animals."

For more information about applying for Healthy & Humane Farm Funds, contact Grants Administrator Lisa Isenhart at lisenhart@foodanimalconcerns.org. For media inquiries, contact Jacki Rossi at jrossi@foodanimalconcerns.org.

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