



# 2020 Annual Impact Report



Cherokee Valley  
Bison Ranch

# Dear Friends,

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When I wrote this letter for our Annual Report last year, little did I imagine that we would still be struggling with the pandemic a full year later. It is a time to pause and reflect on how we have all been impacted. We mourn the loss of all who died as a result of COVID-19. We recognize the many independent farmers whose livelihoods have been hurt, and many who had to shut their operations. We think about the dire struggles faced by farm workers and meat packers, many of whom became sick and died from COVID-19. Our thoughts are with them all.

We at FACT worked remotely during most of the year, under the shadow of the pandemic. Much of our work focused on helping farmers and their animals survive the crisis:

- In April and May 2020, FACT distributed nearly \$100,000 through 202 emergency mini-grants to farmers located in 40 states.
- Through a follow-up evaluation we determined that our emergency mini-grants served their intended purpose. The funding helped 99% of respondents address a challenge related to COVID-19. 83% credited the mini-grant with having a positive impact on the financial viability of their farm business.

Throughout this tumultuous year, our Food Safety Program shifted from meeting with federal departments and policy leaders in person in Washington DC, to 100% remote work. And yet our work continued to highlight the dangers of the factory farmed-based food system. Many around the country became more aware of the importance of raising food-producing animals in a healthy and safe manner.



In the fall, our Board and Staff met together virtually for a strategic planning retreat. We discussed many great and innovative ideas and recommitted ourselves to a vision that:

**All food-producing animals will be raised in a humane and healthy manner, and everyone will have access to safe and humanely produced food.**

We spelled out our Core Values, which include compassion, respect, equity, learning, integrity, transparency, collaboration, and safety. You are invited to peruse our full plan and report at [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/what-we-do](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/what-we-do).

Even with all of its difficulties and disruptions, this has been another productive, impactful year for FACT. We could not have accomplished all that we have without your generous support. We rely on your ongoing commitment and special response in a crisis, which enables FACT to continue to grow and have a huge impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Rhodes".

**HARRY RHODES**  
Executive Director, FACT



# Year in Review: Humane Farming

FACT's Humane Farming Program partners with and invests in individual farmers seeking to raise their animals humanely by providing them with grants, scholarships, webinars, and learning opportunities.

## Fund-a-Farmer Grants

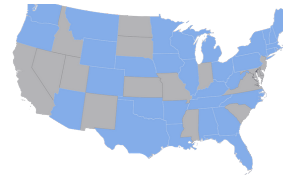
In February 2021 we awarded \$130,000 worth of grants to



56 Farms

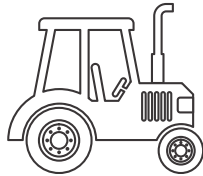


benefitting 20,000 animals

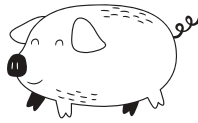


In 33 US States.

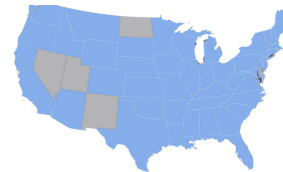
Since 2012 FACT has cumulatively awarded \$590,000 worth of grants to



257 Farms



benefitting 136,000 animals



In 44 US States.

The grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,500, and were awarded for projects that improve the welfare of farm animals and increase the capacity of farmers across the country.



of grants went to farmers seeking to attain or who already hold one of three animal welfare certifications.\*

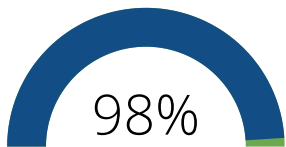


went to farmers who wish to improve or expand access to pasture for their animals.

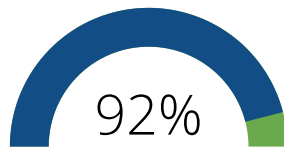


were made to farmers who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color.

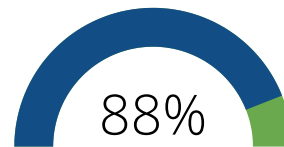
A recent 2021 survey of past grant recipients found that the grants have produced a wide range of long-term benefits:



of farmers reported that their FACT-funded projects improved animal welfare.



experienced a positive environmental impact.



found that the grant improved their farm's financial viability.

\*The animal certifications are Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World, Certified Humane, and Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Animal Welfare Certified. Thank you to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) for generously underwriting the grants for farmers seeking or holding one of these certifications.

Megan Denton, owner/operator of Able Farms in Oregon, received a grant to build mobile poultry tractors and install fencing for her flocks of broiler chickens, laying hens, and turkeys living on pasture.

"Mobility is key here in the Pacific Northwest with the unsteady climate. This project will enable my operation to implement a year-round pasture system suitable for poultry while safely and humanely housing my flocks. The birds will have daily access to fresh food and foraging ground, which creates a healthier flock and soil via fertilization for future pastures."



McLeod's Flying Bull Bison Ranch

# Year in Review: Humane Farming

## Conference Scholarships

FACT has awarded conference scholarships to facilitate peer-to-peer farmer education and networking, ultimately to increase knowledge and use of humane farming practices.



58 scholarships



to 23 conferences and workshops

82% of recipients said that they would not have been able to attend without the scholarship.

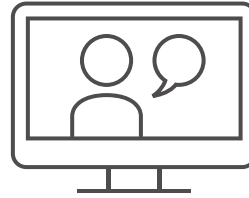
100% reported increased knowledge and skills related to humane animal production.

95% reported that they plan to implement some of the practices they learned about during the conference or workshop on their farm.

## Humane Farming Webinar Series

FACT offers webinars to increase knowledge and use of humane farming practices and to help humane farmers improve the financial success of their farm business. Webinars in the past year included:

- 3 Steps to a Profitable Farm
- Pasture Weed Management and Identification
- Trees for Livestock Food and Medicine
- Strategies for Online Farm Stores



18 Webinars were offered in the past year. 1964 people attended live; many more watched the replay.

## Humane Farming Mentorship Program



Matched 14 pairs of mentors in 2020 and we have 19 new pairs for 2021.

Our mentorship program provides beginning farmers who wish to raise their animals humanely with technical guidance, as well as encouraging them to successfully use humane practices, pursue humane certification, and foster a sense of community.

## Marketing and Communications

Printed and shipped over 70,000 freezer quality labels for 31 of our funded farmers to place on their meat and egg cartons.



Developed a set of seven new handouts for farmers and consumers about the nutritional benefits of pasture-raised animals. Download your own here:

[foodanimalconcernstrust.org/nutritional-benefits](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/nutritional-benefits)





# Supporting Farmers During COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FACT launched an emergency mini-grant program to help independent livestock and poultry producers respond to the challenges they faced as a result of the crisis.



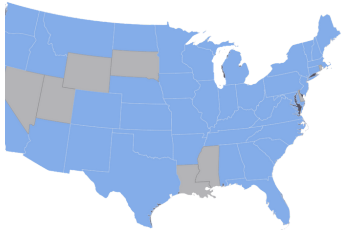
Lee Hemp Farm Eggs

## Covid-19 Emergency Mini-Grants

In April and May of 2020, we awarded more than \$95,000 in mini-grants to



202 Farmers



In 40 US States.

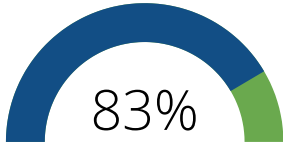
Elodie Farms in Rougemont, NC used its grant to purchase coolers and gel packs to ensure safe delivery of their goat cheese. As a result, they have been able to expand their delivery route and nourish more members of the local community.



Aerie Farm East in Maryland used its mini-grant to purchase a new freezer to store lamb and pork.



of farmers reported that the grant helped them to address a challenge related to COVID-19.



credited the mini-grant with having a positive impact on the financial viability of their farm business.

Clockwise from top left: Walker Farm At Whortleberry Hill, Hell or High Water Farm, Case Country Farm and Chinook's Acres

## National Directory of Local Food Vendors

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, FACT put together a 'National Directory of Local Food Vendors with Online Shopping' to help farmers connect directly with consumers. The directory includes humane, family run farms and independent grocers and aggregators across the US that deliver products or have curbside pick-up.

Many consumers are now looking for alternatives to corporate online delivery companies or large supermarkets and want to buy their food directly from a farmer or good food vendor. The Directory can be found on our website [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/vendor-list](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/vendor-list).



# Year in Review: Food Safety Program

FACT's Food Safety Program advocates for strong corporate and federal policies to end the overuse of antibiotics on farms and to ban completely the use of veterinary drugs known to be harmful to consumers and animal health. We advocate with federal agencies to do more to monitor and prevent foodborne illness, including illness caused by resistant superbugs. Below is a list of the different agencies that we work with, our asks for policy changes, and our actions and successes in 2020.



## Regulates animal drugs and animal feeds



### Antibiotics

- Prohibit overuse.
- Monitor antibiotic use.
- Monitor for superbugs in animals, food, and people.

### Asks

### Address other dangerous drugs in food animals

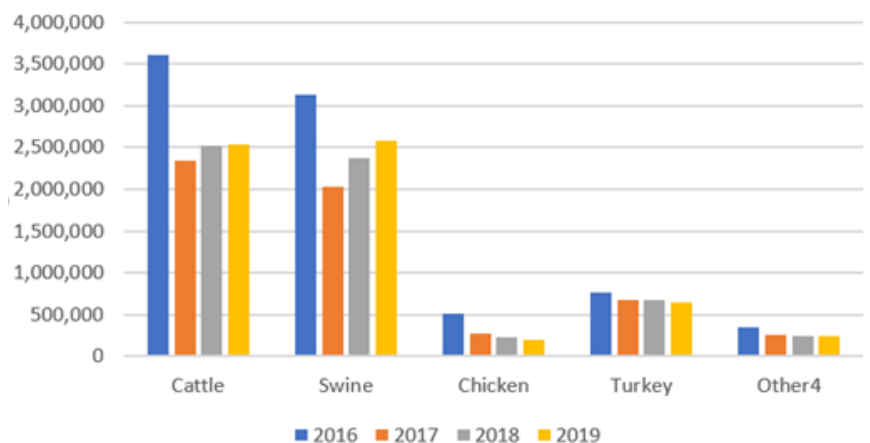
- Prohibit use of beta-agonist drugs in cattle, swine, and turkeys because they are harmful to animals and lead to dangerous residues.
- Prohibit the use of the drug carbadox because its use in pigs leads to cancer causing residues in pork products.

### Actions

- FACT leads and staffs the Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) coalition of eighteen allied organizations, the major voice calling for changes in how antibiotics are used on farms.
- Chaired meetings between KAW and FDA and sent letters with action requests to the FDA.
- Coordinated submission of formal comments to the FDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.(HHS).
- Made an invited presentation on tracking antibiotic resistant superbugs at an FDA public meeting.
- Worked with Congress to support the FDA's budget and to get Congress to direct the FDA to act on antibiotic overuse.

- Joined a lawsuit challenging FDA's approval of beta-agonist Experiore because of its risk to animals, people, and the environment.
- Joined a petition calling for an emergency ban on the beta-agonist ractopamine because COVID-19 would increase the risk that they are overused and increase harm to animals, people, and the environment.
- Worked to raise awareness of carbadox by sharing information to FACT members and other organizations. This was covered in two British publications.

Antibiotic Sales Data from the FDA by Industry Sector





# Year in Review: Food Safety Program



## Food Safety and Inspection Service – regulates pathogens in meat and poultry, and collects data on superbugs from animals at slaughter

- Demand that slaughter companies require farms and feedlots to take steps to reduce pathogens on farms.
- USDA should break out data on superbugs collected at slaughter facilities by state. State level data would help people understand better what is happening on farms in their area.

### Asks

- Submitted both written and oral comments to USDA in response to a public meeting held by the agency on how to reduce the contamination of meat by the foodborne pathogen Salmonella.
- Meeting with USDA to discuss barriers to reporting state level data on superbugs found at slaughter plants.

### Actions

## Research, Education, and Economics including National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Agricultural Research Service

- USDA should research and promote ways to raise animals that improve welfare, lower sickness, and reduce antibiotic use.
- USDA should fund research by universities on ways to improve the health and welfare of animals so that they do not become sick and need antibiotics.

- Led a teleconference with USDA staff on research priorities.
- Submitted our priorities to USDA through a written letter and through a USDA survey seeking input on priorities.
- Worked with Congress to support USDA's research budget.



## International Organizations

### Asks

- Organizations should make recommendations against the overuse of antibiotics.
- They should also make recommendations that countries monitor and report superbugs in the food system and antibiotic use on farms.

### Actions

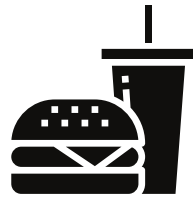
- FACT represented Consumers International in the Codex Ad hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance as it developed recommendations for countries on antibiotic resistance.
- Provided input to the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition as it made recommendations to the above international organizations.

# Year in Review: Food Safety Program



## Restaurant Chains

- Adopt policies requiring suppliers to prohibit antibiotic overuse on farms and in feedlots.
  - Adopt policies requiring suppliers to track and report antibiotic use.
  - Be transparent about policies.
- 
- Surveyed top 20 restaurants that serve beef
  - Met with companies (this year met with McDonald's and Taco Bell).
  - Normally we would campaign but given the challenges to the industry, we decided not to do so in 2020.



## Food Companies

### Asks

- Adopt policies prohibiting antibiotic overuse.
- Track antibiotic use.
- Be transparent about policies.

### Actions

- Provided expert support to investor groups considering shareholder action.
- Met with companies producing meat without antibiotic overuse.
- Met with representatives of companies that track antibiotic use on beef feedlots.



## Other Food Companies

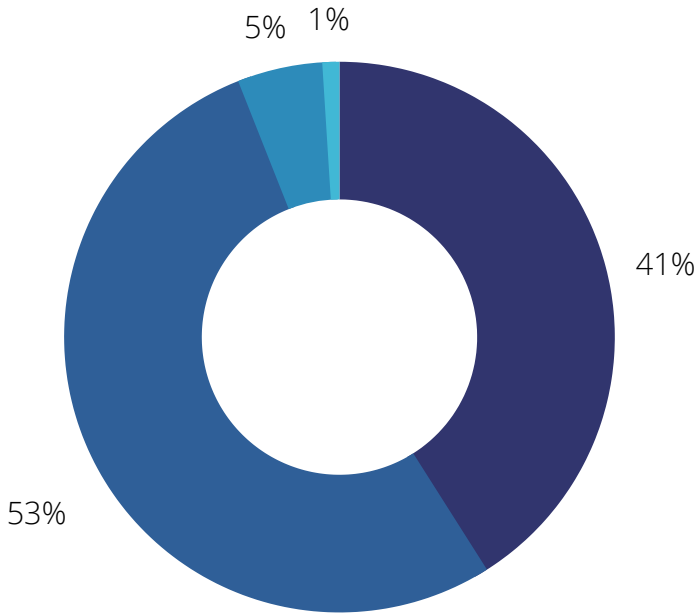




# Audited Financial Summary

Year Ending June 30th 2020

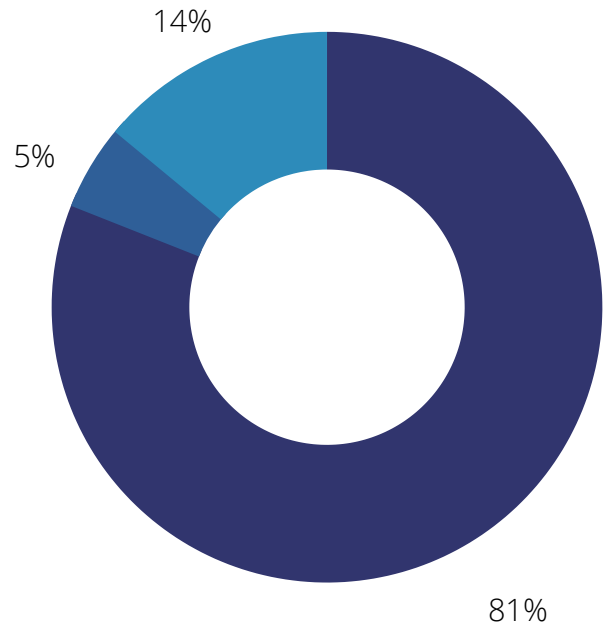
Revenues: \$761,224



- Individuals: \$309,581
- Foundations: \$403,100
- Investments: \$41,383
- Other: \$7,180

Expenses: \$722,174

- Program Services: \$583,534
  - Humane Farming: \$356,567
  - Food Safety: \$175,196
  - Program Communications: \$51,771
- Management and General: \$39,675
- Fundraising: \$98,965



Change in Assets: \$39,070



# Year in Review: FY2020 Donations

During our 2020 fiscal year FACT received 1744 gifts from 1103 supporters – ensuring that we may continue our work to improve farm animal welfare and safe and healthy foods. There are many ways to contribute to FACT’s impact:

## Donate to FACT



Donate to FACT by visiting our website, [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/donate](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/donate), or by calling us at 773-525-4952. Alternatively, you can send us a check made payable to FACT to our office at 3525 W. Peterson Ave., Ste 213, Chicago IL 60659.

## Make it a monthly gift



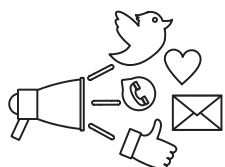
Monthly donors are vital to our work as they offer sustainable progress on the issues of humane farming and safe and healthy foods. A regular gift helps us keep mailing costs down so we can allocate more resources to protecting and nurturing your food, health, and community. Set up a regular gift on our website or by calling the FACT office.

## Your Legacy



As you plan your philanthropic legacy, please consider including a provision in your will that includes FACT as a beneficiary. Please contact us for more information regarding including FACT in your planned giving.

## Follow us on Social Media



Follow us on social media to see our progress. You can also help us increase our online presence and spread our message further by liking and sharing our posts. See page 8 for links to our social media channels.

## Subscribe to our E-Newsletters



Subscribe to our e-newsletter to be the first to hear about our work and impact, as well as participating in our advocacy campaigns. Sign up on our website: [foodanimalconcernstrust.org](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org).





On behalf of all of us at FACT, we thank you for your continued generous support!

## Board of Directors

Robin Fitelson, Board Chair

Jill Weinstein, Vice Chair

Darlene Oliver, Secretary

Mark Bearce

Sean Crowley

John Hess

Kirsten Jurcek

Adam Leff

Laura Rogers

Dr. Jill Shriver

Gail Tibensky

## FACT Staff

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Charlotte Isles, Development Associate, [cisles@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:cisles@foodanimalconcerns.org)

Madeleine Kleven, Food Safety Program Associate, [madeleinek@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:madeleinek@foodanimalconcerns.org)

Larissa McKenna, Humane Farming Program Director, [lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org)

Steve Roach, Food Safety Program Director, [sroach@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:sroach@foodanimalconcerns.org)

## Vision and Mission

**VISION:** All food-producing animals will be raised in a humane and healthy manner, and everyone will have access to safe and humanely-produced food.

**MISSION:** FACT advances our vision that all food-producing animals are raised in a humane and healthy manner. We accomplish this by supporting humane farmers, promoting policies that make foods from animals safe and healthy to eat, and helping consumers make informed food choices.

## Contact Us

Food Animal Concerns Trust

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Chicago, IL 60659

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[www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org](http://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org)

[www.keepantibioticsworking.org](http://www.keepantibioticsworking.org)

