

FACT SHEETS

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)
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Celebrating 40 Years of FACT	2
Meet FACT's New Board Member	3
FACT Announces New Fund-a-Farmer Grant Winners	4
Carbadox: FDA Should Ban it- for Pigs, People, and the Environment	6
Legacy and Memorial Giving	7

Celebrating 40 Years of FACT

By Harry Rhodes

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) was officially founded 40 years ago, in February 1982. Our founder, Robert Brown, was a leading animal welfare advocate at that time. He recognized that there was no organized effort to promote the welfare of farm animals that are raised for food. FACT was the first U.S. organization devoted to fighting for the humane treatment of farm animals and addressing the public health problems that result from raising farm animals in confined, inhumane conditions.

In a journal article on alternatives in animal experimentation, Robert Brown wrote:

"The law's prejudice against farm animals has come about because the farm lobby has been able to introduce language exempting animals used in food production from humane laws. It has been simply a matter of farm lobby clout.... We need to increase our efforts to inform the public that, simply by calling themselves farmers, some citizens can do whatever they want with animals in their care. In doing this we should be careful to point the finger at agribusiness, not farmers in general...."

Forty years later, FACT has achieved many accomplishments and continues to lead the charge for the humane and healthy production of food-producing animals. Times have changed and industrial agriculture has become more powerful, but the movement for a better, fairer food system has also grown stronger. We have seen that our programs make a difference, and we will continue to promote humane and healthy farming until our vision is achieved:

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

Some of the highlights over the past 40 years include:

Nest Eggs

On July 14, 1984, the Nest Eggs® brand of cage-free eggs was launched by FACT in an effort to prove that battery cage egg production was an unnecessary evil. The Nest Eggs® brand was highly successful, from both a brand name and animal welfare perspective. **Overall, Nest Eggs® freed over 1 million laying hens from the misery of a life in battery cages.**

While Nest Eggs® enjoyed success from a project perspective, the business side of Nest Eggs, Inc. (NEI) struggled financially and ceased production in September 2002. Yet, despite these challenges, Nest Eggs® helped create a profitable market niche for eggs from uncaged hens in grocery stores across America. Consumers and animals have benefited as a result.

Nest Eggs was one of FACT's first programs. Since then, other programs and major accomplishments include:

Improving the Welfare of Farm Animals: Humane Farming Program

FACT partners with, and invests in, independent farmers seeking to raise their animals humanely by providing them with funding, mentorship, scholarships, and educational opportunities. This support is critical in helping farmers buy equipment, scale up their operations, pursue animal-welfare certifications, improve their pastures, increase their knowledge of humane farming practices, and make connections with other farmers.

Since 2012, FACT has awarded grants to farmers to support humane farming practices that help improve living conditions for their animals, produce healthy meat, dairy, and poultry, and strengthen their farming businesses. Over the past decade, we have awarded \$856,714 to over 500 farmers in 44 states and have supported the well-being of 735,000 animals.

Reducing the Overuse of Antibiotics

Thanks in large part to our work, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibited the use of medically important antibiotics to make animals grow faster, and most major restaurant chains have adopted policies reducing antibiotic overuse by their meat suppliers. Together, these efforts have led to a measurable drop in sales of antibiotics for use in animals.

Ensuring Safe and Healthy Food

FACT played a leading role in convincing the FDA to prohibit the use of dangerous arsenic-containing feed additives in chickens and pigs, and to require egg farms to eliminate the food-borne pathogen Salmonella.

Championing Racial Equity

We believe in a more equitable food system. On June 19, 2020, we announced our renewed commitment to diversifying our leadership and expanding our outreach to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). In solidarity with the movement to address racial inequity in agriculture, nearly half of the Fund-a-Farmer Grants we awarded in 2021 and 2022 supported BIPOC farmers. We will continue our work to advance fairness, opportunity, and social and environmental justice for all.

Over the past 40 years FACT has made an important contribution to building a healthier food system that promotes the welfare of farm animals, the health of human beings, and the environment of our planet. During this year we will share more stories celebrating 40 years of FACT and invite you to send us your stories and memories about how FACT has impacted your life.



Harry Rhodes
Executive Director



**Over the past 40 years
FACT has made an
important contribution to
building a healthier, more
humane food system.**

Meet FACT's New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Elaine Madansky to FACT's Board of Directors.

Elaine Madansky is Farm Manager at Elawa Farm Foundation, a non-profit farm in north suburban Chicago focused on educating the surrounding community on small-scale vegetable and flower production, cooking, and healthy living. Before joining Elawa Farm, Elaine worked on two other sustainable, certified organic farms in the Chicago area, increasing her knowledge of organic farming while completing her degree in Sustainable Agriculture.

Before shifting gears to sustainable farming, Elaine worked for many years in a successful career in marketing research for several large, packaged food and medical products companies. After years of working in corporate America, Elaine decided to follow her life-long passion for working with plants and focus her attention full-time on growing healthy food for people in an environmentally sustainable way.

Though focused on organic and sustainable vegetable (and flower) farming, Elaine shares a passion for ensuring that more people in the United States, who eat animal products, readily have access to food from animals that are humanely and sustainably raised.



Her efforts to arrange the showing and subsequent panel discussion of the documentary film *At the Fork* by John Papola in 2017 further alerted her to how most animals are raised in our country. It's critical to her that more people know how their food is produced so that they can make more informed buying decisions and shift the number of food animals raised humanely and sustainably. Joining FACT's Board of Directors was a natural fit because these are key goals of the organization.



FACT Board Members

Chair: Ms. Darlene Oliver

Vice Chair: Mr. Mark Bearce

Secretary: Ms. Jill Weinstein

Directors

Ms. Robin Fitelson

Mr. John Hess

Ms. Kirsten Jurcek

Ms. Elaine Madansky

Ms. Laura Rogers

Ms. Gail Tibensky



FACT Announces New Fund-a-Farmer Grant Winners

In March, FACT awarded more than \$170,000 in Fund-a-Farmer Grants to a diverse slate of 60 livestock farmers and ranchers. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this was our biggest year yet. In solidarity with the movement to address racial inequity in agriculture, 45 percent of the grants were made to farmers who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color. 80 percent of the grant recipients are first-generation farmers, and a majority are women-owned operations.

Since 2012, FACT has cumulatively awarded 521 grants totaling over \$857,000 to farmers across 44 states, directly benefiting an estimated 735,000 animals.

Of the 60 total grants awarded this year, FACT awarded 19 grants to farmers who are seeking to attain or who already hold one of three animal welfare certifications (Certified Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) by A Greener World, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Animal Welfare Certified), and 41 grants to farmers who wish to improve or expand access to pasture for their animals. As in past years, ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is again generously underwriting the grants to farmers pursuing or holding one of the above animal welfare certifications.

"The ASPCA is honored to fund FACT's annual grants for the fifth year in a row to support farmers transitioning to more humane and sustainable systems that improve animal welfare and meet the demand for greater transparency in the marketplace," said Kara

Shannon, Director of Farm Animal Welfare Policy at the ASPCA. "FACT grantees continue to illustrate the benefits higher-welfare farming has not just for animals, but for farm businesses, local communities and our environment."

A recent 2022 survey of past grant recipients found that the grants have produced a wide range of long-term benefits. Overall, 98 percent of farmers reported that their FACT-funded projects improved animal welfare, 95 percent experienced a positive environmental impact, and 88 percent found that the grant improved their farm's financial viability. Individual farmers report that their FACT-funded projects have increased biodiversity, improved soil fertility, enhanced livestock health and comfort, and reduced stress for both the farmer and their animals.

"After a decade of grantmaking, there is no doubt that our Fund-a-Farmer Grants are significantly benefiting

"After a decade of grantmaking, there is no doubt that our Fund-a-Farmer Grants are significantly benefiting farmer livelihood, animal welfare, and environmental health."

Larissa McKenna

farmer livelihood, animal welfare, and environmental health," said Larissa McKenna, FACT's Humane Farming Program Director. "We believe that partnering with - and investing in - humane farmers is one of the best ways to make a difference in the lives of food-producing animals."

FACT is working to change the way that meat, poultry, and dairy are produced, and these grants are a key to making these changes. The Boston-based direct-to-consumer brand, ButcherBox is also promoting these changes through their national humane meat delivery service. The company has supported FACT's grants to farmers for the past three years.

“The change needed in our agriculture industry is multi-faceted – we need to increase the humane treatment of animals, environmental sustainability, and racial equity,” said Evadne Cokeh, ButcherBox’s Vice President of Social & Environmental Responsibility. “I’ve been impressed with FACT’s commitment to increasing racial equity through its Fund-a-Farmer grant program as they have made a concerted effort to ensure that Black, Indigenous, and farmers of color know about their grants and it’s been rewarding as a supporter of this program to see the racial diversity of their grantees grow.”

Wendy Johnson of Jóa Food Farm in Charles City, Iowa received a grant this year to purchase mobile handling equipment to sort and handle the farm’s growing flock of sheep. The farm’s sheep and lambs are Certified Animal Welfare Approved and Certified Grassfed by A Greener World.

“Thank you so much for providing Fund-a-Farmer grants to farmers! It is so helpful especially when making capital purchases to enhance the safety and respect of the animals. They give us so much, the least we can do is give them a safe, respectful and healthy life on farms,” Ms. Johnson said.

Tim and Delicia Brown of Broadview Farm and Gardens in Marengo, Illinois received a grant this year to purchase fencing and mobile housing to expand their flock of pastured broiler chickens.

“The project will benefit the birds by providing a high-quality forage tailored to their needs. It will also increase the health of the soil, by improving soil structure, and increasing the cycling of nutrients,” Mr. Brown said.

2022 Fund-a-Farmer Grants for farmers seeking or holding animal welfare certification:

1. **American Flock Farms** in Rushville, IN
2. **Ardent Acres Farm** in Palisade, MN
3. **Bar-A Ranch** in Normangee, TX
4. **BOTL Farm** in Ashford, CT
5. **Callywood Farms** in Westminster, SC
6. **Crow Fly Farms** in Marion, NC
7. **Final Frontier Farm** in Paris, KY
8. **Four Hills Farm** in Versailles, KY
9. **Graze The Prairie** in Latham, KS
10. **Halal-N-Tayyib Meat Shares** in Macon, GA
11. **Harris Cattle Company** in New Orleans, LA
12. **High Desert Hogs** in Sisters, OR
13. **Jóa Food Farm** in Charles City, IA
14. **Rolling Pastures Ranch** in Henagar, AL
15. **Serendipity Farms** in Wolverine, MI
16. **Slow Farm** in Cameron, NC
17. **Souder Station Farm** in Winterport, ME
18. **Tucker’s Black Angus Ranch** in North Lawrence, NY
19. **Waterline Farm** in Pryor, OK

2022 Fund-a-Farmer Grants for pasture improvement projects:

1. **7 Lazy A Ranch** in Thatcher, AZ
2. **Alchemy Farms and Plants LLC** in Hampton Cove, AL
3. **Baseline Farm** in Dexter, MI
4. **Bennett Family Farms** in Adel, GA
5. **Black Ranch** in Williams, AZ
6. **Broadview Farm and Gardens** in Marengo, IL
7. **Bugtussle Farm** in Gamaliel, KY
8. **Collins Farm LLC** in Rome, NY
9. **Enos Farms** in Spring Green, WI
10. **Eyrie Summit Farm** in Hamptonville, NC
11. **Florida Best Nursery, Inc.** in Inverness, FL
12. **Graylight Farm** in East Chatham, NY
13. **Honor Bound Farm** in Maxwell, NE
14. **Jones Farm** in Cuba, AL
15. **K&L Organics** in South Wayne, WI
16. **Lydia’s Flock Icelandic and Shetland Sheep** in Bellingham, WA
17. **Mayday Farm** in Leeds, ME
18. **Medicine Creek Farm** in Finlayson, MN
19. **Moxie Ridge Farm** in Fort Edward, NY
20. **Muse 3 Farm LLC** in Greensburg, LA
21. **North Sky Farm LLC** in Springfield, IL
22. **Outlaw Acres Farm** in Lake Junaluska, NC
23. **Plow and Stars Farm** in Poolesville, MD
24. **Pork & Greens** in Troy, NY
25. **Pumpkin Vine Family Farm LLC** in Somerville, ME
26. **Pure Pasture Farms** in Springfield, TN
27. **Raven & Boar Farm** in East Chatham, NY
28. **River Valley Country Club** in Seattle, WA
29. **Roach Family Farm** in Vevay, IN
30. **Rogue Artisan Foods** in Jacksonville, OR
31. **Rx Grazing Services LLC** in Lewis, CO
32. **Saudade Farms** in Sherburne, NY
33. **Shat Acres Highland Cattle LLC** in Plainfield, VT
34. **Silver Shade Ranch** in Eagle Bend, MN
35. **Southern Sunny Acres** in Winona, TX
36. **Sparkplug Farm** in Leeds, ME
37. **Terra Vitae Farms** in Woodstock, IL
38. **The Nation’s Farm** in Covington, GA
39. **The Smiling Farm** in Winston Salem, NC
40. **Willow-Wist Farm** in Sequim, WA
41. **Woven Stars Farm** in Ghent, NY

In addition to the grants, FACT also offers free webinars, conference scholarships, and a mentorship program for livestock and poultry farmers who wish to improve the welfare of their farm animals.

We will share news and stories from the field throughout the year. You can visit our website at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/past-grants to learn more about each of our funded farms and projects.



Red Ledge Farm in Connecticut

Carbadox: FDA Should Ban it - for Pigs, People and the Environment

How most animals are raised in the U.S. is terrible for the animals, terrible for people, and terrible for the environment.

Let's look at pigs. Most of the 74 million pigs raised in the U.S. are removed from their mothers well before their stomachs are ready to digest solid food and they're kept in cramped, crowded buildings. This combination of early weaning and crowding leads to diarrhea which is "managed" with feed additives. The most popular feed additive for managing diarrhea, by far, is carbadox which is given to at least half of the pigs in the country and probably many more. The maker of carbadox actually advertises the feed additive's benefits for keeping pigs growing when "pig space is limited" or in other words crowded.

Carbadox is also a known genotoxic carcinogen that the U.S. drug regulator, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), says it would like to ban. Carbadox has been banned for over a decade in Canada, Europe, and Australia because of the risk to consumers from cancer causing residues in meat and because of the risk to feed mill workers who may be exposed to the drug. It seemed as though the FDA was going to join its peers in 2016, when the agency announced it was going to ban the drug, but this set off a years long legal battle with the drug maker Phibro that is still ongoing.

In March, FACT's Safe and Healthy Food Program Associate, Madeleine Kleven, joined the FDA, the drug maker, and representatives from the pork industry in a

hearing to discuss the safety of the drug. It was good that FACT was there since we were the only speakers supporting FDA's efforts to ban the drug.

During the hearing, the FDA explained that carbadox is a known carcinogen, so it has different rules than other feed additives. Under U.S. law carcinogens can only be fed to animals if the drug maker can demonstrate that there are no residues of carcinogenic concern in any edible products from animals administered the drug. When the FDA last approved the drug in 1998, the drug maker provided data showing there were no dangerous residues present in pork products after 15 days. The FDA accepted that data and in turn ignored its own requirements for a cancer-causing feed additive and instead treated carbadox as a normal feed additive.

Please join FACT in writing to the FDA, asking them to ban this carcinogenic drug.

Not much later, in 2003, new data surfaced showing that cancer causing residues last longer than 15 days. This new data led other countries to ban the drug and international food safety organizations to recommend that the drug not be used. Prior to

the March meeting, the FDA told the company that the feed additive can only be sold if there is a way to monitor meat from animals fed the additive that ensures no dangerous residues are left in the meat. The company has not provided this method.

During the public hearing, the drug maker argued that its product is safe and has always been safe. However, they failed to propose a detection method for ensuring its safety. The maker also painted carbadox as absolutely essential to raising pigs in the U.S.

FACT's Madeleine Kleven was up next and argued that the FDA should move forward with an immediate ban. She explained that there are safer alternatives for managing diarrhea in baby pigs. Most importantly, weaning later and making sure pig space is not limited (don't crowd the pigs) can greatly reduce pig sickness. If pigs do get sick there are other drugs that do not create a cancer risk. Madeleine also pointed out that not only does carbadox get into pork, it has also been found in surface waters throughout the country. Carbadox is bad for the environment as well as for pigs and people.

Madeleine was followed by many representatives from the swine industry arguing that the sky would fall if the FDA were to ban the feed additive. They argued it would be bad for animal health and welfare, increase the price of pork, and reduce the safety of pork. FACT has heard all of these arguments before when the FDA banned use of a type of antibiotic in chickens and turkeys back in 2005. When looking at the data after that ban, there was no reduction in numbers of chicken, no rise in prices, and no increase in number of people getting sick from chicken. The same analysis is expected with the withdrawal of carbadox. It would be great if a ban urged farmers to keep baby pigs with their mothers longer and reduce crowding.

FACT's Safe and Healthy Food Program Director, Steve Roach, briefly spoke at the close of the meeting to address some of the inaccuracies of the industry speakers and to reiterate Madeleine's points.

FACT has requested a meeting with the recently confirmed FDA Commissioner, Dr. Califf, to ask him to move forward with a ban. We are doing what we can to raise awareness and get the drug off the market but we need your help. **Please join FACT in writing to the FDA asking them to ban this drug** which is bad for pigs, bad for people, and bad for the environment. You can do this on our website at foodanimalconcernstrust.org/take-action.



Red Ledge Farm in Connecticut

Thank you.

FACT would like to honor those who continued their commitment to our cause over the past year through generous legacy, honorary, 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 and everyone will have access to safe and humanely-produced food.

Without the loyal and generous support of our donors, both past and present, FACT would not be able to achieve the work that we do promoting humane farming and safe and healthy food.

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

Mr. Raymond Barrier, *FACT Supporter since 1984*

Charles Van Wick Brooks Charitable Trust

Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Dufour,

FACT Supporters since 1986

Mrs. Mildred Lillis, *FACT Supporter since 1998*

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Miss Jeanne Templeton, *FACT Supporter since 1986*

Mrs. Dorothy Thorndike, *FACT Supporter since 1987*

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FACT is pleased to share that we have the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, a nationally recognized charity watchdog. You can rest assured that FACT maintains a high level of accountability and transparency. Few nonprofits attain this high level of recognition.

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