

FACT SHEETS

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*Windy Hills Farm in Washington, a
2023 Fund-a-Farmer Grant Recipient*

Introducing FACT's Humane Farming Program Team

Meet our three staff members who make our farmer program happen.

FACT's Humane Farming Program has had some big changes over the last year. Our dedicated Program Director, Larissa McKenna left us after 18 years of developing our farmer focused program into the excellent opportunity it is today.



Samantha Gasson

Our program is now headed up by Samantha Gasson. Samantha joined the FACT team in 2019, but she's been part of our humane-farming family since she started attending our webinars in 2015. Samantha and her family own and operate Bull City Farm in North Carolina. In addition to raising pigs, broilers, dairy cows, turkeys, layers, lambs, and a geriatric emu named George, Samantha and her family have a strong focus on education as part of their farm.

A little known fact about Samantha is that she is obsessed with dogs of all kinds especially her pack of three: Raider a seven year old English Shepherd; Finn, a four year old Australian Shepherd; and Betty a one year old Border Collie...actually that probably isn't a little known fact to those who know her.

In order to keep our humane farming programming growing, FACT has welcomed two new faces, Katie Meade and Lydia Strand.

Before joining FACT's Humane Farming team in 2023, Katie managed a Doula mentorship program where up-and-coming Doulas trained under the supervision of experienced Midwives and Doulas in home, birth center, & hospital settings. In addition to leading FACT's Mentorship Program, Katie runs her family farm in rural Applegate, Oregon. Along with

shepherding a Katahdin flock, milking Jersey cows, and wrangling free-ranging pigs and children, she organizes agricultural land rehabilitation projects and community workshops supported by her local university extension. Outside of work she enjoys reading, swimming in nearby rivers & lakes, and exploring the great outdoors with her children.

A little known fact about Katie is that she loves foraging for medicinal herbs in the mountains, then making tinctures and teas.

Before joining the Humane Farming team in 2023, Lydia participated as a mentor in FACT's Humane Farming Mentorship Program for four years, supporting new and aspiring shepherds as they begin their pasture focused, sheep-based enterprises. Lydia, along with her husband, raise a flock of Icelandic and Shetland sheep in Bellingham, WA, and offer beginning and ongoing shepherding education and mentorship to shepherds planning to utilize a pasture-based management system for their flock. In addition to all things sheep, they also raise pastured heritage-breed laying hens, breed, raise, and train Great Pyrenees dogs for livestock guardianship, and have a Guernsey heifer calf, Marigold, for a future micro-dairy endeavor.

A little known fact about Lydia is that she enjoys knitting, reading, spending time with family, cooking and baking with local foods, and watching British and Nordic crime dramas.



Katie Meade



Lydia Strand

Meet FACT's New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Yumi Kobayashi to FACT's Board of Directors.

I'm excited to introduce myself as a new member of the FACT board. Currently based in New York, I work as a risk manager for the largest US bank, dedicated to safeguarding assets and ensuring the trust of our clients worldwide. I'm originally from Tokyo, Japan, and I spent school holidays on my grandparents' farm (even though I was far from being a real farmer!). These experiences planted the seed of my passion for animal well-being.

While my career led me to the finance industry, taking me from Tokyo to Hong Kong, and later to New York, my belief in the dignity of all living beings, including animals, has always guided me. I used to volunteer and donate to causes close to my heart, and I discovered the opportunity to align my skills with meaningful causes through BoardLead, a service connecting professionals like me to non-profit boards.

FACT immediately caught my eye. A photo of children looking over grazing cattle made me confident that this organization is doing something truly amazing. My journey as a FACT Board member is fueled by a commitment to leverage my financial expertise and global perspective to support the organization's mission. Despite not being a farmer myself, I am eager to contribute to FACT's growth, working alongside talented staff, esteemed board members, and the visionary Harry, FACT's Executive Director!

Together, we aim to make sustainable farming and healthy food a part of everyday life, supported by a robust regulatory framework.



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2024 Fund-a-Farmer Grant recipients

87 farms and ranches located across 31 different states and territories.

By Samantha Gasson, FACT's Humane Farming Program Manager

Over the next few weeks, we will be announcing our 2024 Fund-a-Farmer (FAF) Grant recipients. With 87 farms and ranches located across 31 different states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, this crop of grant recipients represents FACT's most geographically diverse cohort. We cannot wait to hear all about how their funded projects benefit their animals, ecosystems, and communities, pushing the collective food system closer to sustainability.

This year we distributed more than \$251,000 to farmers from Hawaii to the US Virgin Islands to Maine, and many places in between. Of the new grant recipients:

- **72%** are beginning farmers or ranchers
- **66%** are first generation farmers or ranchers
- **68%** identify as women-owned operations
- **47%** identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)
- **11%** are identified as military veterans.

Since we started our grants program in 2012, FACT has cumulatively awarded:

- 695 grants
- totaling more than \$1,361,000
- to farmers across 48 states including the District of

- Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, 1,213,276 animals are estimated to be benefitted directly.

These grants have made positive impacts on individual operations and surrounding communities.

Each year we ask our past grantees to tell us how their projects continue to help their farms. This information is invaluable when looking at the life span of our grant program. This year's survey outlined encouraging information:

- **100%** of the farmers reported that their FAF grant is still in use
- **90%** of farmers reported that their FACT-funded projects improved animal welfare
- The majority experienced a positive environmental impact
 - **87%** found that the grant improved their farm's financial viability by decreasing expenses, increasing customers and visibility, and ultimately improving net profits.

Farmers have told us that their projects have

- Increased biodiversity on their operations
- Improved soil health and overall diversity
- Decreased soil erosion
- Improved the welfare of their livestock and poultry
- Protected animals from predators, reduced mortality, and more.

The impacts these grants have made on individual operations and surrounding communities

A small amount of money certainly goes a long way with frugal, innovative farmers. For over a decade, our grants have provided a needed financial boost for these farmers so that they may continue to do what they do best, care for their animals and provide nourishing, more humanely-raised food for people in their communities.

A HUGE Thank You to our funders and supporters! We are excited to have fostered this community and we are so thankful for your generosity.

To learn more about all of our funded farms and projects, please visit our website:
foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants.

Here are a couple of our 2024 recipients:

Beyond Organics in Winslow, Arkansas received a grant to purchase a 3-ton portable bulk bin to be able to obtain organic and non-GMO feed for their pastured poultry operation.

“We have been raising pastured poultry for ten years and have been through numerous feed mills in that time. They inevitably go out of business or are unable to fulfill the needs of small farmers. Most recently we have been traveling 400 miles round trip to obtain our feed for our pastured poultry operation. This trek to obtain high quality feed means driving three states away and having the necessary equipment (large trailer and truck) to be able to obtain 120-180 50 lb bags of ethically sourced feed. This is highly inefficient but is our best option given our geographical proximity to organic and non-GMO feed mills. We are requesting funds to purchase a 3 ton portable grain bin so that we can obtain these high quality feeds locally in a much more efficient and effective manner.”

Over the Moon Farm and Flowers in Coggon, Iowa received a grant to improve their rotational grazing on pasture to enhance the production of their broiler chickens, turkeys, and Pekin ducks with the integration of solar electric fencing, mobile water tanks, and portable feed totes.

“Expanding the available space in a pasture offers significant advantages to poultry farming, positively impacting both the well-being of the birds and overall sales for our business. With increased space, poultry can exhibit and engage in more natural behaviors, and experience reduced stress levels. This enhanced environment promotes better health, resulting in improved growth rates and higher-quality meat. From a sales perspective, the improved well-being and superior quality of our poultry due to increased pasture space can attract consumers who prioritize ethically raised and high-quality meat. Meeting the demand for our products can lead to a competitive edge in the market, foster customer loyalty, and drive overall sales growth.”



Late Bloomer Ranch

Late Bloomer Farm: 2023 Grant Recipient

Location: Driggs, Idaho

Animals impacted: 300 layers, 40 Sheep and 110 Hogs

Corrine McAndrews' journey to Late Bloomer Ranch was a winding one that started in the city and ended up with a passion for the beauty of working with animals outside, year-round to create delicious and nutritious products that she feels good about. After a year of hard work, Corrine has seen large improvements due to FACT's Fund-a-Farmer grant and has declared her project as "highly improving the welfare of her livestock."

“The water system within our grazing program has long felt like a hold-up to the “next step” of animal welfare for our pastured animals. Despite doing everything we could to maximize the efficacy of the old system, the implementation of the new system has strongly validated how necessary it was. The animals can now enjoy cold, clean water 24/7 without the biological stress of feces, mud, and debris tracked in by in-tank wallowing habits and traffic around water sources.”

FACT's Fund-a-Farmer grants were designed to not only improve the welfare of farm animals but to help high welfare farmers become more financially viable. Corrine reported that her grant improved the financial stability of her farm.

“With the time this more efficient system has freed up for staff, other animal-benefitting projects like shade structure improvements, larger pastures for each rotation, the introduction of locally-sourced grains mixed on-site for chickens and pigs, and fencing improvements have all been undertaken.”

We at FACT love to hear how well our farmers are doing, especially when it allows them to be a spokesperson for humane farming.

“Grants like the FACT Fund-a-Farmer Grant have allowed us to grow in a sustainable way, while steadily increasing profit through bumping sales, bettering marketing, launching new products, and more. For example, we have launched a podcast called The Soft Focus to promote our holistic mission here at the farm, and address with other producers, spiritualists, nutritionists, and more what that looks like on and off the ranch.”



Stopping Superbugs: The Work Goes On

The FDA is backtracking on fighting the threat of antibiotic resistant superbugs.

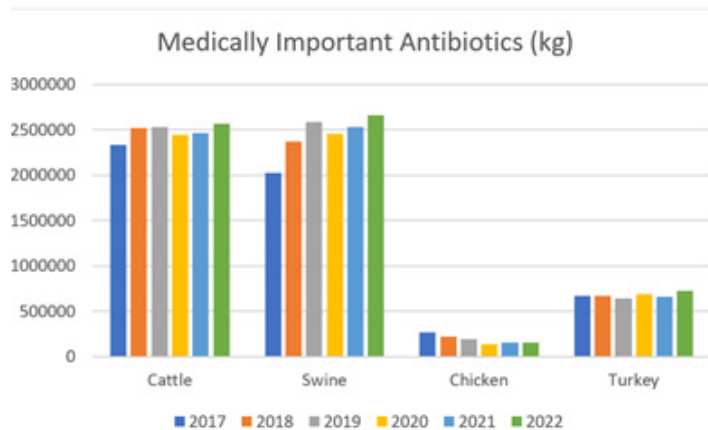
By Steve Roach, FACT's Safe and Healthy Food Program Director

How animals are being raised on giant factory farms is literally killing us through the spread of antibiotic resistant superbugs and it is only getting worse. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is tasked with making sure that animal drugs, including antibiotics, are safe for both animals and people before they can be sold. In 2017, the FDA implemented policies that prohibited the worst use of antibiotics in food animals, the feeding of medically important antibiotics (ones used both in people and animals) to make animals grow faster with less feed. This led to a significant drop in use but not near enough, and since then use has been inching back up (see graph 1). The graph also shows that the bulk of antibiotic use is in cattle and pigs and that the increase in use since 2017 is mainly in these species. Since 2017, the chicken industry has continued to reduce its already low use.

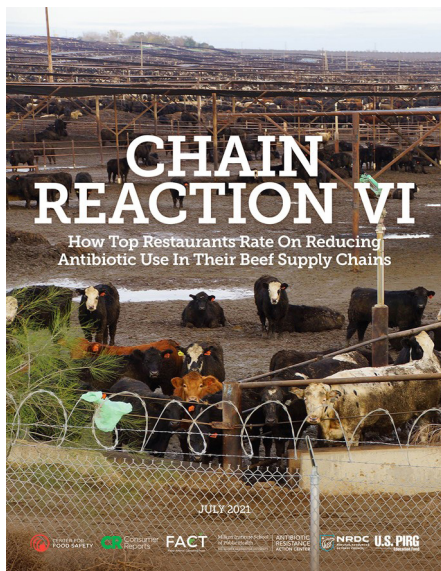
The FDA is allowing the meat industry to override a safety measure to meet animal industry needs.

It is accepted knowledge (among [the FDA](#), [medical experts](#), and even the [livestock industry](#)) that antibiotic resistance is a huge public health crisis. Still, there is an unwillingness to do much about it and even some movement away from earlier actions to control it. For example, Tyson Foods, the giant chicken producer [recently announced](#) that they were going to start using some non-medically important antibiotics again.

While the big drop in 2017 was primarily due to the FDA restricting growth-promoter use, the low and decreasing level in chicken was most likely due to consumer pressure. FACT's work with the Antibiotics Off the Menu Campaign and our [annual scorecards of fast food chains](#) pushed the major U.S. restaurant chains to adopt policies prohibiting the routine use of medically important antibiotics in the production of the chicken they serve.



Graph 1: Medically Important Antibiotics in Food Animals



Chain Reaction VI: How Restaurants Rate on Antibiotic Use in their Beef Supply

While we have focused our efforts on medically important antibiotics, the FDA has taken a step in the wrong direction since there is [growing evidence](#) that using this type of antibiotics also leads to the spread of deadly superbugs. In our restaurant scorecards, we consistently gave Panera high scores because they were one of two major chains that prohibited antibiotic overuse for all the meats they serve. Now, a [new report](#) found that Panera may be abandoning some of its animal welfare commitments including its commitments on antibiotics. We are working on an update to our restaurant chain scorecard and may have to report they are moving backwards if what has been reported is correct.

We have recently identified where the FDA is backtracking on fighting the threat of antibiotic resistant superbugs. In 2003, the FDA published its approach for determining the safety of antibiotics used in food animals. The 2003 approach required drug makers to determine the risk of antibiotic resistance for new uses of antibiotic drugs. If a drug was found to have a high risk of creating a human health superbug problem, the agency would still let the drug maker market the drug under specific use restrictions. One of the most important restrictions was limiting how long the drug could be used, since longer use increases the risk of superbugs. Under the 2003 approach, drugs that were high or medium risk could be used for no more than 21 days. The FDA is now updating its approach and has replaced the 21-day limit which was designed to stop the spread of superbugs with whatever length of use the industry asks for. In short, they are allowing the industry to override a safety measure to meet animal industry needs.

FACT is fighting hard against this change and has met with the FDA to let them know this is unacceptable. We are also working with Congress to raise awareness of the problem and are seeking a meeting with the FDA commissioner. Finally, we are reaching out to all the big restaurant chains to pressure them to do a better job on this public health crisis and will be releasing an update on their policies later this year.

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. We are grateful for the support that we receive, and thank each of you for the impact that your generosity allows us to make. If you would like to make a donation to our work you can do so at give.foodanimalconcerns.org/donate.

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James Kirchoffer in memory of Patsy Kirchoffer
Evan Jane Kriss in memory of Lorna Kriss
Casey Leon in memory of Patsy Kirchoffer

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FACT is pleased to share that we have the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly GuideStar), a nationally recognized charity watchdog. You can rest assured that FACT maintains a high level of accountability and transparency.

Contact Us

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Hildred's Farm in Connecticut