

# FACT SHEETS

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)  
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# The Impact of our Legacy Gifts

By Harry Rhodes, Executive Director

One of the keys to FACT's success has been the donations from thousands of people year after year. Without our supporters' loyalty to our mission and belief in our work, FACT would not have made such a significant impact on humane farming and farmers for over 40 years.

We have also been fortunate that some of these donors have selected to remember FACT in their legacy. I would like to talk about two of those legacy gifts we received, and the impact that they had.

John Meeks was a long-time supporter and friend of FACT. Since 1988, we had the pleasure of his friendship. In April 2022, we received a bequest of more than \$50,000 from Mr. Meeks. We devoted this gift to our Humane Farming Program, which continues to grow and impact more farmers every year. Our Fund-a-Farmer Grants Program has grown from \$94,579 to 38 farmers in 19 states in 2019 to more than \$253,000 to 87 farmers in 34 states this year. Mr. Meeks generous bequest helped us support more farmers directly. His legacy lives on through our work.

Jeanne Templeton was another long-tenured friend to FACT. One day in August 2021 we received a check for \$300,000 from the Jeanne Marcelle Templeton Trust! This was one of the largest gifts that FACT had ever received. We were sad to hear that Ms. Templeton had passed away and were honored and grateful that she thought that our work was so important that she left us this major gift. Trustee Gayle Licher said, "Jeanne included five organizations in her will, all of them concerned with animal welfare. That was her passion."



*Jeanne Templeton*

This gift turned out to be transformational for our organization. At the time FACT had four full-time and one part-time employee. We had a budget of \$851,000. We decided to use \$100,000 a year for the next three years to expand our staff so that we could increase our programs and have an even greater impact on the production of healthy meat, dairy, and poultry.

**You too can make a difference, both through your continuous support of our work, and by including us in your estate planning.**

You too can make a difference, both through your continuous support of our work, and by including us in your estate planning. Your legacy can live on through the farmers and animals who will thrive thanks to you.

For more information, please take a look at the planned giving page on our website: [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/planned-giving](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/planned-giving). If you would like more information or have already included a gift for FACT in your will or trust, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with me at [hrhodes@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:hrhodes@foodanimalconcerns.org) or by calling 773-525-4952.





# Meet FACT's New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Adam Podd to FACT's Board of Directors.

Hi! I'm not a farmer and I'm not a vegetarian. I'm just someone who believes passionately in FACT's Vision and Mission. I believe like most things in life, we need to keep things on our earth in balance – this all starts with what and how we fuel our bodies every day.

I'm a CPA for one of the largest global accounting firms in the world and spend nearly all my work day in an office, the exact opposite of our farmers – which is why I have such respect and admiration for each and every family farmer out there making a contribution to feed my family in a responsible manner! I'm originally from Wisconsin and met my wife at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where we both ran track & field. I began my career at PwC in Milwaukee and have since lived and worked in Portland, Amsterdam, Denver, and now in Switzerland. We have three children (two daughters and a son), all under the age of 8, and all born in different cities! I never thought I would be so drawn to an organization like FACT – however, since moving away from my home state (which is the 'Dairyland' of America, and where I used to drive by cows on a daily basis), I've now come to realize how appreciative I am of my roots. Our family's experience raising backyard chickens in Denver further solidified my passion for respecting and nurturing all living beings.

FACT's accomplishments over the past four decades are remarkable, and I couldn't be prouder to be part of this transformative journey.



With boundless enthusiasm, I look forward to contributing my strategic expertise and global perspective to support FACT's growth and its vital mission of promoting responsible and sustainable nutrition. Together, let's create a healthier, harmonious world by fueling our bodies with care and compassion.

## **FACT Board Members**

Chair: Darlene Oliver

Vice Chair: Jill Weinstein

Secretary: Gail Tibensky

Treasurer: Elaine Madansky

Felicia Bell

Robin Fitelson

Kirsten Jurcek

Adam Podd

Laura Rogers

A-Dae Romero-Briones





# Announcing our new Fund-a-Farmer Grant Recipients

**87 farms and ranches located across 34 different states**

By Samantha Gasson, FACT's Humane Farming Program Manager

In April we were absolutely delighted to announce our 2023 Fund-a-Farmer Grant recipients! With 87 farms and ranches located across 34 different states and the District of Columbia, this crop of grant recipients represents our largest cohort ever. We cannot wait to hear all about how their funded projects benefit their animals, ecosystems, and communities.

This year we distributed over \$253,000 to farmers from Hawaii to Maine, and many places in between. Of the new grant recipients:

**75%** are beginning farmers or ranchers

**64%** are first generation farmers or ranchers

**53%** identify as women-owned operations

**46%** identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)

**17%** are identified as military veterans

The projects that we funded are diverse in nature, ranging from mobile housing for laying hens, fencing for goats, and waterlines for bison. Here are a few examples:

**Action Jackson Farms** in Salvisa, Kentucky received a grant to improve the health of their goats by providing portable fence line feeders for pasture feeding.

*"The portable fence line feeders (funded by FACT) will enable our goats to access more of our acreage. We plan to partition the paddocks with electric netting for rotational grazing. The animals will have access to clean water, adequate shelter, free choice loose minerals, and plenty of forage. This practice will help us improve our soil while reducing overcrowding and stress in our herd."* - Fatima Jackson, Action Jackson Farms in Salvisa, Kentucky

**Moonstone Farmstead** in Washington, D.C. received a grant to purchase and install portable electric fencing, aerial netting, and seed forage cover crop to rotationally graze broiler chickens and heritage laying hens on pasture.

*"Raising broilers and egg layers on pasture will reduce the reliance in milled feed, while helping to regenerate soil in paddocks not in production. Poultry with direct access to pasture, fresh air, and sunlight will ensure overall health, which will prevent parasite/pathogen spread. The 2023 FACT grant will help protect our flock from predator pressure ultimately enriching the conditions in which the chickens are raised."* - D'Real Graham, Moonstone Farmstead in Washington, D.C.

**This year we distributed over \$253,000 to farmers from Hawaii to Maine, and many places in between.**



Altogether - since we started our grants program back in 2012 - **FACT has cumulatively awarded 608 grants totaling over \$1,110,000 to farmers across 44 states, directly benefiting an estimated 978,600 animals.** The impacts these grants have made on individual operations and surrounding communities are astounding.

Every year we ask our past grantees to tell us how their projects continue to help their farms. In our most recent survey conducted earlier this winter, past grant recipients reported that the grants have produced a wide range of long-term benefits. Overall, 99% of farmers reported that their FACT-funded projects improved animal welfare, 91% experienced a positive environmental impact, and 90% 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 fertility, enhanced livestock diet and comfort, and reduced stress for both the farmer and their animals, among other benefits.

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.

Thank you to our funders and supporters! We are in this for the long haul, and we could not do it without you. It takes a village, and we are so thankful for your generosity.

To learn more about all of our 2023 funded farms and projects, please visit our website [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants).



***D'Real Graham, Moonstone Farmstead***



### **Rogue Artisan Foods: Grant Recipient Jacksonville, Oregon**

**Animals affected:** 1000 broilers, 75 goats, 30 hogs and 20 turkeys

Gilly Short has a passion for artisanal foods, especially cheese and charcuterie. This passion has taken her from Washington state to the Iberian Peninsula, to finally her little slice of heaven in southwestern Oregon.

Rogue Artisan Foods, like many pasture based producers, was in need of improved fencing and solid gates when they applied for a 2022 Fund-a-Farmer grant. Her plan to purchase more portable fencing in order to use her goats for brush mitigation served a dual purpose; to improve her pastures and give her brush-loving goats something fun to eat.

After a year of hard work, unexpected price increases and a lucky used gate find, Gilly was able to declare her Fund-a-Farmer grant project as very successful **“highly improving the welfare of her livestock”**.

*“We no longer have goats and pigs escaping through janky homemade gates. Our pasture is on a 60 day rotation between the four paddocks. This is allowing for excellent growth of the forage and hopefully improving our parasite loads.”*

FACT's Fund-a-Farmer Grants were designed to help not only the lives of livestock but of farm businesses. Gilly reported that her grant **“Highly improved the financial stability” of Rogue Artisan Foods.**

*“The amount of time I was spending trying to juggle the animals on the pasture and chasing escaped animals was wasting my time. I was also getting poor efficiency out of the forage, and it forced me to spend money on hay.”*

Like many small, diversified livestock businesses Rogue Artisan Foods is often caught between higher prices of humanely raised food and competing with the low prices of industrial agriculture. Fortunately there are enough consumers out there who care about how their meat is raised. **You too can support small humane farmers like Gilly by making a donation to FACT today at [give.foodanimalconcerns.org/donate](https://give.foodanimalconcerns.org/donate).**





*Sleeping Lion Farm*

# When it Comes to Antibiotic Resistance the FDA is Going After the Mouse While Ignoring the Elephant

## The FDA needs to address the real source of antibiotic overuse

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

Antibiotic resistance is a huge public health problem and leading cause of death globally, responsible for more than 160 000 deaths each year in the U.S. alone. It is primarily caused by the overuse of antibiotics in food animals and humans.

When FACT started working on antibiotic resistance decades ago, there was little awareness of the problem even among government officials. The factory farm industry denied they had anything to do with it. Now almost everyone in governmental positions of power and even the meat industry recognizes that antibiotic resistance is a public health crisis which threatens animal and human health. This critical issue must be tackled in both human medicine and in animal agriculture.

Still, despite the increased awareness, action to address antibiotic overuse in agriculture is moving way too slowly. Antibiotic resistance grows worse every year, yet government officials only seem motivated to take actions if:

a) They don't cost anything.

b) They don't impact the giant animal confinement facilities where most food animals are kept, and most antibiotics are used. More than 90% of all U.S. pigs come from the largest operations with average sales of 28,000 pigs each year. **For cattle, 2% of operations feed 75% of all cattle.**

Earlier this year, new requirements went into effect from an agreement between the animal drug

makers and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Since June, people raising animals for food can no longer purchase medically important antibiotics without a veterinarian's order. This completed an action that

started back in 2017 when a similar agreement led to these antibiotics requiring a veterinarian's order when being given in food or water.

Medically important antibiotics are antibiotics used in both people and food animals. In general, FACT agrees with requiring medical oversight before using antibiotics either from a doctor for human use or a veterinarian for animal use. This action, which is the most significant step FDA has taken to address antibiotic resistance related to overuse of antibiotics in animals impacts less than 5% of all antibiotics sold for use in animals and will have a much bigger impact on small farmers than the giant meat operations where most animals are raised.

**Despite the increased awareness, action to address antibiotic overuse in agriculture is moving way too slowly.**



**This is the mouse.** The new rules address only a small part of antibiotic use and mostly impact small producers, not the giant operations feeding tens of thousands of animals each year. The giant operations already have access to a veterinarian and much of the antibiotics they use go in feed and water, so they have already adapted.

While requiring prescriptions is “a mouse” with respect to controlling the antibiotic resistance crisis, for farms in remote areas without access to a veterinarian the new requirements can be a huge problem.

What about the elephant? **The elephant is the massive overuse of antibiotics on huge feeding operations to prevent diseases that arise from unhealthy conditions where the animals are raised.** This is the biggest driver of overuse in agriculture. Instead of raising animals in healthy conditions, many livestock feeding operations feed antibiotics to prevent the anticipated diseases from the unhealthy conditions. For example, antibiotics are used to prevent gut disease caused by weaning baby pigs before they are ready to digest solid food.

Because preventive antibiotic use is not directed towards animals that are showing signs of illness, it results in many more animals being treated than would be the case if only sick animals were treated.

Preventive use is also often for long durations. For example, most beef cattle receive an antibiotic in their feed the whole time they are in the feedlot to prevent liver abscesses caused by unhealthy diets. The FDA knows long durations increase the risk of antibiotic resistant superbugs – their own guidelines call any use over 21 days a “long duration”- but they continue to allow it.

FACT has called on the FDA to prohibit preventive use of antibiotics in food animals for decades, but the FDA has prioritized restricting the few remaining over the counter drugs instead of addressing the real source of antibiotic overuse.

## FACT’s Safe and Healthy Food Podcast Tour to Stop Antibiotic Overuse

FACT’s Safe and Healthy Food Program just finished a whirlwind podcast and radio tour to raise awareness about the problem of antibiotic resistance. Our Program Director, Steve Roach, and Program Coordinator, Madeleine Kleven did twelve interviews over three days. We will be sharing these interviews through social media as they come out.

### You can already listen to:

- Steve Roach on Your Story to Tell with Kim Carson.
- Steve Roach on the Frankie Boyer Biz Talk Radio show.
- Madeleine Kleven on The Rising Podcast.

These are available to download on our website at [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/podcast-tour](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/podcast-tour).

Given the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and the massive overuse of antibiotics by giant animal feeding operations, we are exploring new ways to let people know about the problem and to give them tools to respond.





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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.**

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