



Examples of Funded Applications

The applications found below were selected for Fund-a-Farmer Grants in February 2023. Please note that some of the application questions may have changed slightly for the current round of funding. However, the notes and feedback provided below each question are general tips that can be adapted for the updated questions.

Example application 1: Portable Feed and Water Unit for Pastured Laying Hens

Question 1: Give your proposed project a title - describe it in one sentence.

Convert a 6x8' trailer to a portable grain and water unit for a flock of laying hens while on pasture.

- **Notes:** *This title will be the one associated with your project on all promotional materials and on the 'Previous Grants' page.*

Question 2: Summarize your proposed project, including project goal(s).

Last year we built a portable coop for our flock of laying hens. We managed to get them on pasture May-July, but faced logistical issues. In order to more successfully implement a pasture-based system for our chickens we need a less labor-intensive means of supplying feed and water.

- **Notes:** *This application very simply summarizes their project including why it is important to the welfare of their poultry and the farm's workflow. Although concise the applicant clearly answers the question. This applicant uses subsequent questions to include more details, in order that the grant committee may envision the full scope of the project.*

Questions 3: Describe the current conditions and why you have a need for the project. How would your project improve these conditions and help you achieve your goals?

Our farm has ~11 acres of fruit production with a total of 38 acres. We purchased the farm in 2021 and have been working to bring it back to health. The orchards face high insect, disease, and weed pressure. In the purchase we also obtained a flock of chickens whose housing has a spring coming up through it leading to unhealthy living conditions.

To address the health of our flock and state of the orchards we will implement a pasture-based system on those ~11 acres. In 2022 we purchased 200ft of portable chicken netting and solar electrifiers, and converted a hay wagon to a portable chicken coop.

We put the flock on pasture for a few months, but our means of supplying grain and water were inefficient and labor-intensive. In those months we were filling 5-gallon buckets and using a garden cart to manually bring food and water out to the field. While this was doable when they were close to the farm's infrastructure, it was not sustainable away from it and we decided to stop our pasture rotation until we could complete this project.

- **Notes:** *The applicant builds on their answer to question #2 by providing background on their current situation and how their proposal will address the problem. By being intentional in how you take the reviewers through each question you can share more detail.*

Question 4: Describe how your project would affect animal welfare, as well as other anticipated impacts.

The completion of this project will enable us to efficiently implement a pasture-based system, greatly improving the welfare of our chickens. They will gain access to fresh grass weekly, as well as the ability to forage.

Additionally, the overall health of our farm will be increased by this project. Our orchards face high weed, disease, and pest pressures. We also have nitrogen deficiencies in several of our fields. By creating pasture rotation in the orchards the chickens will help address these issues without compacting the soil or damaging the trees.

This project will also create efficiency with day-to-day tasks leading to less labor cost, ultimately enhancing the viability of the farm as a whole.

- **Notes:** *This application builds on previous answers by giving specific details on how this project addresses improving the animal's welfare. In addition, positive pasture improvements and how these funds will help with their laying flock health issues as emphasized. Again, they have already touched on these benefits in previous answers but presenting previous points in a slightly different way will help the reviewers understand your project more completely.*

Question 5: List the steps you plan to take to implement your proposed project, including timeline and expected date of completion.

1. (March 2023) Purchase water tank, hosing, and bell waterers for project.
2. (April 2023) Secure water tank to bell waterers then attach to existing trailer. Troubleshoot and issues with water flow.
5. (April 2023) Construct wooden container with dispenser for grain using lumber and supplies already on-farm.

May 2023 project completion. Get chickens and their new feed & water trailer on pasture. Troubleshoot any issues with the unit.

- **Notes:** *The applicant has clearly evaluated how they will implement their project if funded. When thinking about your project consider adding intermediary dates in addition to the completion date. This will show the reviewers your clear understanding of just how you plan to implement your project.*

Question 6: What expertise, experience, or training do you have to successfully execute this project?

I have been farming for 5 years now. While working on other farms and now at my own, I have designed and implemented irrigation systems, completed carpentry projects such as building mobile and stationary housing for livestock and raising greenhouses and am responsible for overall management of the orchard and livestock management. Though not a small feat, based on my work experience and with the help of our farm hand, I know we can complete it in a timely manner.

- **Notes:** *It is important for the reviewers to see you have the skills necessary to complete your project. If you do not have the necessary skills make sure you have found someone who can help you complete your project. This applicant demonstrates that they have the necessary experience to be successful completing their project.*

Question 7: Is there any other information you would like to share about your farm or project?

Not answered

- **Notes:** *Not answering this question will not adversely affect your chances of receiving funding but it is a missed opportunity especially if the reviewers are on the fence about your proposal. It is a good time to share more about your farm, your plans for the future and overall philosophy. It's a time for the reviewers to get to know a little bit about you. Remember, the process is anonymous, the review committee can't look you up and read your story anywhere but here. Take the time to share who you are, like this applicant, it could mean the difference between being funded or not.)*

BUDGET SECTION

Amount requested from FACT (up to \$3,000): \$961.84

What is the total cost of the proposed project? \$961.84

If the amount of the grant would not cover the entire cost of your proposed project, describe how you will pay for the remaining expenses (e.g. other grants, cost-share, out of pocket).

Other materials, such as lumber and screws, are something we have on site. Should any additional expenses arise we will pay for them with cash on hand.

Budget for proposed project

Item	Quantity	Price/unit	Total	Notes
1275-gallon reconditioned water tank	1	2.99	522.96+shipping	https://www.ntotank.com/275nto-white-reconditioned-ibc-tote-tank-x7738445?gclid=CjwKCAiAk—dBhABEiwAchlwKZ52tpVbpK2V2
Suspended Dome Drinker	4	52	219.44	Cost of 4 units plus tax, shipping is free over \$200. https://www.premier1suppliedome-poultry-drinker?cat_id=1413

Tubing, 82'roll, 3/8 (10x14mm)	4	52	219.44	Cost of 4 units plus tax, shipping is free over \$200. https://www.premier1suppliedome-poultry-drinker?cat_id=141
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Notes: *While asking for the whole funding amount is completely acceptable and does not adversely affect your chances of being awarded, asking for less than the maximum can help you get awarded if the review committee is on the fence about your project. We encourage applicants to be as detailed as possible. Items like screws, nails and lesser value items should not be included. You can be very specific with this answer or give a range. A range is appropriate if you have an item that might vary over time. Make sure to explain where funds over \$3000 will come from. This applicant gave two possible outcomes based on receiving local grant money. Reviewers will be looking for applicants who have thought out how they will pay for any additional expenses; they want to fund proposals with a good chance of success.*

Example application 2: Humane Mobile Sheep Handling System for AWA certification

Question 1: Give your proposed project a title - describe it in one sentence.

Improve the welfare of our sheep flock with investment in a humane mobile handling system with the ultimate goal of becoming Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) as determined by A Greener World.

- **Notes:** *This title will be the one associated with your project on all promotional materials and on the 'Previous Grants' page.*

Question 2: Summarize your proposed project, including project goal(s).

Since April 2022, we have been implementing a rotational grazing system that rehabilitates our pastures and soil health, while providing nutritious forage for our sheep. The next step is to develop a handling system. It would have a tremendous impact on parasite load detection and sheep health. With a humane mobile handling system, we can efficiently perform welfare checks, sort our sheep, administer any medical treatments, and monitor their weights while they enjoy the natural forage of our land. The plan is to perform welfare checks while the sheep are on pasture, resulting in a seamless practice. The new management practice would result in accurate health records, thorough body condition assessments, and proper sorting into groups, without the commotion of putting our flock manually in a pen. We strongly believe that a lower stress environment improves the overall quality of our sheep, which ultimately improves the meat texture and flavor. This project would help us continue offering the premium quality humanely raised grassfed lamb to our community. A mobile humane handling system will help our farm achieve higher animal welfare for our sheep and follow the AWA standards. This project will improve the safety of our sheep and ourselves.

- **Notes:** *This application clearly summarizes their project including why it is important to the welfare of their livestock, moving their sheep operation towards animal welfare certification*

and how it will be implemented. This is a great place to include details such as acreage and number of animals that will help the review committee to better understand the scope of the project.

Questions 3: Describe the current conditions and why you have a need for the project. How would your project improve these conditions and help you achieve your goals?

We raise all of our heritage breed sheep on pasture with all-day access to barn and shelters. Currently, our body condition scoring assessment is done manually, without a scale, by placing our hands on the sheep's backbone and short ribs. Churros are a wool breed, which can make it difficult to do a proper assessment. The scale component of a handling system would help us keep accurate monthly records of each sheep, as well as properly sorting them into groups (by age or size). We currently have an improvised sorting pen in our barn, but as much as we do this process calmly, this method is more stressful to our Churro sheep since we have to restrain them manually. Investing in a mobile humane handling system would be crucial to minimizing stress, avoiding injuries, and will create a low-stress environment. This addition would also be incredibly beneficial for our sheep's welfare. The system will make it easier to do our yearly health tests for Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis (CAE), Johnes, and Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), as well as keeping our Churros calm and contained for shearing.

- *Notes: The applicant builds on their answer to question #2 by going into the specifics of their current situation and how their proposal will fix these problems. By being thoughtful about how you take the reviewers through each question you can share more depth and detail than if you treat each question independently. Remember, you are creating a narrative as to why your project should be funded over other, equally compelling proposals. This applicant gives a good argument as to why their project is needed, carefully aligning the humane animal welfare component.*

Question 4: Describe how your project would affect animal welfare, as well as other anticipated impacts.

As stewards of our flock, we believe that being upheld to AWA animal welfare standards perfectly aligns with our mission and daily shepherding of our Navajo-Churros. By investing in a humane mobile handling system, we would be able to significantly improve the well-being of our sheep by performing routine health checks on pasture and will allow us to keep records of each sheep's weight and health for accurate reporting. This project will also allow us to closely monitor our sheep's FAMACHA score to assess parasite load, while keeping track of their weight to make sure they are consuming the appropriate amount of forage our pastures have to offer. Through our rotational grazing and pasture rehabilitation project which was implemented in 2022, we are able to extend the grazing season into the beginning of winter and start again in early spring. The quality of the natural forage our land has to offer changes with the seasons, which can have a significant impact on our sheep's body condition. The scale on our handling system will play a crucial role in keeping detailed records of each sheep's body condition, making sure they are all in great health.

- **Notes:** *The applicant continues to build on their previous answers by giving specific details on how their animal's welfare will be positively impacted in order to achieve animal welfare certification. Projects that work towards an animal welfare certification are usually well received. Although already having touched on some of these benefits in previous answers the applicant chose to present previous points in a slightly different way, helping the reviewers understand their project more completely.*

Question 5: List the steps you plan to take to implement your proposed project, including timeline and expected date of completion.

The following timeline describes the implementation of our project:

April 2023: Contact handling system suppliers and place an order for the handling system.

May 2023: When our handling system arrives, we can immediately start our recording keep process. Our lambing season starts in late May, so having a handling system in place would help us perform thorough health checks up to the very start of lambing.

We will keep thorough monthly records which are crucial to achieve the AWA certification. We will also keep video and photo records to document the change in the health of our flock. Additionally, we will continue to perform monthly animal welfare assessments by performing a thorough welfare check of every animal's weight to keep records of the beneficial health impacts of our rotational grazing project.

March 2024: Submit all required documentation to become AWA certified for our sheep flock.

End of May 2024: Become certified AWA and continue to maintain the standards of the organization.

- **Notes:** *The applicant has clearly put a lot of thought into how they will implement their project, if funded. Adding a fully thought-out timeline with dates is very helpful, showing the reviewers your clear understanding of just how you plan to implement your project.*

Question 6: What expertise, experience, or training do you have to successfully execute this project?

We have been raising Navajo-Churro sheep for the past 6 years. Like many first-generation farmers, a lot of our knowledge comes from on-farm experience. Beyond on-farm experience, we have actively pursued agricultural knowledge and education by taking advantage of free educational initiatives on sheep management, FACT webinars and free web series provided by universities with agriculture extension programs. These initiatives have further expanded our knowledge as shepherds and farmers.

From the day we started our journey until now, we strive to continue our education. We believe it directly reflects how we manage our farm and our livestock.

We have seven years of herd management, as well as project management experience which, combined, will help in successfully implementing this project. Through this experience, we understand the importance of keeping detailed records from planning to implementation.

- **Notes:** *It is important for the reviewers to see you have the skills necessary to complete your project. If you do not have the necessary skills make sure you have found someone who can help you complete your project. This applicant demonstrates that they have the necessary skills to be successful in completing their project with their ongoing agricultural education, personal herd management experience as well as professional project management experience not only to complete the project in a timely fashion but also keeping detailed records for future reporting.*

Question 7: Is there any other information you would like to share about your farm or project?

Our farm story began like many others who become passionate about farming. We started by raising chickens in our backyard home in the city, which led us to eventually raising our first livestock and moving out to a working farm.

After working for 5 years as a ranch hand and herd manager, in 2021 we purchased our first farmland with the intent of expanding our current herds and providing high quality meat to our community. In October of that year, we officially moved our farm from Texas to Central New York. We are immigrants and first generation farmers, grateful for the opportunity of providing ethically raised heritage breed meat to local families.

Land conservation and livestock breed preservation are a crucial part of our farm's mission and one of our main endeavors.

We purposely choose heritage breeds as our livestock to help protect these breeds from extinction while keeping the soil health of our farm as a main focus.

We are truly passionate about education through preservation. We believe that we can help educate the wider public by providing our community with nutritious meat raised with the highest animal welfare standards.

- **Notes:** *This is an opportunity to share more about your farm, plans for the future and overall philosophy. It allows reviewers to get to know a little bit about you. Remember, the process is anonymous, the reviewers can't look you up and read your story anywhere but here. It could make the difference between being funded or not.*

BUDGET SECTION

Amount requested from FACT (up to \$3,000): \$3,000.00

What is the total cost of the proposed project? \$7,080.00

If the amount of the grant would not cover the entire cost of your proposed project, describe how you will pay for the remaining expenses (e.g. other grants, cost-share, out of pocket).

At the end of 2022, we performed a farm budget for 2023 that included money to invest back into the farm business based off projected farm income. Therefore, the remaining portion will be covered based off that budget.

Budget for proposed project

Item	Quantity	Price/unit	Total	Notes
Corral System (SKU 994)	1	3715	3715	Sydell System D Working System
Tilt Table (SKU 930)	1	1995	1995	Sydell Tilt Table
Digital Scale (SKU 1004#)	1	1370	1370	Sydell Digital Scale

- **Notes:** Asking for the whole funding amount is perfectly acceptable and does not adversely affect your chances of being awarded. We encourage applicants to be as detailed as possible when giving line items. Items like screws, nails and lesser value items should not be included. You can be very specific with this answer or give a range. A range is appropriate if you have an item that might vary over time. Make sure to explain where funds over \$3000 will come from. This applicant plans on using budgeted, projected farm income to make up the difference. Reviewers will be looking for applicants who have thought out how they will pay for any additional expenses; they want to fund proposals with an optimal chance of success.