



2023-24 Fund-a-Farmer Grant Application Guidelines

Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to help livestock and poultry farmers achieve a variety of projects this year. **Applications must be submitted online by 11:59pm ET on January 15, 2024** to be considered for this round of funding. Grants will be awarded by March 2024.

Types of projects

All applications will be submitted online through one main Fund-a-Farmer Grant application, no matter the type of project. As in past years, FACT will fund the following:

- **Grants for farmers who are pursuing animal welfare certification:** These grants support farms that are pursuing one of three animal welfare certifications: [Certified Animal Welfare Approved \(AWA\)](#) and affiliated certifications by A Greener World (AGW), [Certified Humane \(CH\)](#), or [Global Animal Partnership \(GAP\) Animal Welfare Certified \(steps 4 to 5+\)](#). Proposed projects do not necessarily have to address a particular standard required for certification. These grants will be made for on-farm projects that help improve animal welfare.
- **Grants for welfare-certified farmers:** These grants are for projects that would help farms that already hold one of the certifications above to build capacity or maintain certification. These grants can be for on-farm production-related projects, or for other projects related to the marketing, sales, and distribution of welfare-certified products.
- **Grants for farmers to improve or expand pasture for their animals:** FACT will fund projects that would help farms transition to pasture-based systems, expand animals' access to well-managed pasture, and improve the quality of pasture for animals. Farmers do not need to hold or be seeking certification.

Farms and projects that fit into more than one category may select multiple types on the application form. Funding for grants made to farmers who are seeking certification or who already hold certification has been underwritten by generous support from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Additional funding for farms located within 200 miles of Chicago is available this year due to a grant from the Food:Land:Opportunity initiative.

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Location:** Farms must be located in the 50 United States or five major U.S. territories and be working, independent farms, or operated by a federally-recognized tribal entity. These are farms on which a family, individual or tribe owns the animals, is engaged in the day-to-day management of the farm and its animals, derives a share of livelihood from the farm, and produces a livestock product for sale.

2. **Tax documentation:** *If you are selected to receive a grant you will be required to furnish a valid Schedule F or Schedule C form or comparable form from a recent tax return; this document is not required at time of application.* If you file a different form to report income/loss from your farm business, or are not required to file taxes for your farm business because you farm on tribal land, please note this in your application.
3. **Eligible animals:** Proposed on-farm projects must impact at least one of these species: beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. Farms must already raise animals (i.e. produce-only farms are not eligible). Projects involving a new species of animal on an existing livestock/poultry operation will be considered.
4. Only one application per farm per year will be accepted.
5. **Farms that *do not* hold one of the three specified certifications may apply for an on-farm, production-related project that would improve animal welfare and expand pasture-based systems.** Examples include but are not limited to the purchase and installation of fencing, mobile housing, or water systems for animals on pasture. Other production-related projects will also be considered. For applicants who are seeking certification, proposed projects do not necessarily have to address a particular standard required for certification. If the project would help you make progress toward achieving certification, you may include this information in your application.
6. **Farms that *already hold* one of the three animal welfare certifications may apply for funds that can be used for on-farm, production-oriented projects as described above, as well as or other projects related to marketing, sales, and distribution of welfare-certified products.** Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:
 - **On-farm infrastructure or investments** (e.g. on-farm improvements to maintain certification and/or increase the scale and efficiency of the operation, purchase of capital investments such as certified breeding stock and refrigeration units, value added product development);
 - **Supply chain infrastructure or investments** (e.g. transporting products to market, coordinating pick-up, aggregation and distribution of food items from multiple sources);
 - **Institutional or wholesale investments** (e.g. investments to meet institutional/wholesale parameters or sourcing needs, such as increased production, product packaging, value added processing or administrative prerequisites);
 - **Education or marketing efforts** (e.g. educating local distributors to value welfare certifications, creating a cooperative, developing educational materials);
 - **Joint sales efforts to buyers** (e.g. outreach on behalf of multiple farms to local institutions, restaurants or markets to secure contracts that pull from multiple farms).

7. **Time frame:** All proposed projects must begin and be completed within the time frame of March 2024 through June 2025. Projects that are completed before March 2024 are not eligible for funding.
8. **Maximum award:** The maximum award per farm is \$3,000. Eligible expense categories include: materials, supplies, equipment, shipping/delivery costs, consultant/professional fees, travel, training, and hired labor costs.
9. **No funds will be awarded to:**
 - Farms that cannot provide a valid Schedule F, Schedule C or comparable form by March 2024. *If you are not required to file taxes for your farm business because you farm on tribal land, please note this in your application.*
 - Non-profit organizations, schools, and farm sanctuaries are not eligible.
 - The purchase of animals (with the exception of livestock guardian dogs for all applicants, and breeding stock for animal welfare-certified farms), land, or recurring operational expenses such as animal feed.
 - Projects solely focused on aquaculture, apiaries, alpacas, horses, rabbits, or other types of animals not included in the list of eligible species above.
 - Projects related to the production of raw fluid milk for human consumption.
 - Projects related to the slaughter of animals.
 - Certification fees associated with animal welfare or other types of certification.
10. If awarded a grant, farmers will be asked to complete a grant agreement that outlines expectations for reporting requirements and possible scheduled farm visit(s) by FACT and/or ASPCA staff, as well as flash photography and videos during the visit, and the use of the farm name/photos/video in FACT and/or ASPCA publications and websites.

How will grant decisions be made?

FACT relies on a panel of expert humane livestock farmers to review eligible applications. All personal and contact information is redacted from the application to ensure that the final review process is anonymous. Eligible applications will be scored on the following factors:

- Level of animal impact
- Overall merit and usefulness of the proposed project and goal(s)
- Likelihood that the project would help the applicant meet the specified need
- How the proposed project would benefit animal welfare and/or the livelihood of welfare-certified farmers
- Likelihood of success based on the proposed steps and timeline
- Applicant's level of experience or their access to necessary expertise
- Quality of the budget
- If any of the farm owners identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color or multiracial

If you have additional questions regarding the grant requirements or application, please contact us at grants@foodanimalconcerns.org.