



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2011

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ANIMAL WELFARE APPROVED FUNDS THE FUTURE OF FARMING

AWA'S 2010-2011 GOOD HUSBANDRY GRANTS

Twenty-eight Projects to Improve Animal Welfare

Alexandria, VA – Animal Welfare Approved is helping promote innovative, forward thinking farming techniques through its Good Husbandry Grants program. Twenty-eight grants have been awarded to farms and slaughter plants across the nation to improve animal welfare and allow pasture-based farmers to increase productivity for their operations.

One of the grants will be used to help create a breed of chicken at Midsummer Farm in Warwick, New York. This new bird will be adapted especially to pasture-based management. Midsummer Farm will also use grant funds to convert an existing building into a breeding, hatching and brooding facility. This means chicks will no longer have to go through the stressful process of being shipped to the farm, a dramatic step to increase chick health and well-being.

Program Director Andrew Gunther said of the Good Husbandry Grants program, "We are so grateful to be able to continue this program into its third year. The interest has been overwhelming, and our review panel had a tough time selecting proposals from the many worthy applicants." He continued, "We are confident that the projects chosen for this round reflect the most promising proposals with the most significant welfare benefits."

The 2010-2011 Good Husbandry Grants range from \$600 to \$6000 and were open to current Animal Welfare Approved farmers and those who have applied to join the program, as well as slaughter plants working with or seeking to work with AWA farmers. The funding priorities included genetic improvement for pasture-based systems; outdoor access and mobile housing; welfare improvements in the slaughter process; non-lethal predator control and other innovative projects that improve the welfare of animals.



More Highlights of the 2010-2011 AWA Good Husbandry Grant Program

Deutsch Family Farm of Osseo, WI was awarded funds to purchase gravity-flow watering equipment, mobile fencing and mobile shelters for their breeding sows. These shelters will allow for increased pasture rotation while offering protection from the sun, rain, ice and snow of the sometimes harsh Wisconsin climate -- ultimately resulting in healthier and happier sows and piglets.

Nelson Land and Livestock in Wadesboro, NC was granted funding for a Mobile Processing Unit for chicken. This unit will be shared among six farms and will contain the necessary equipment for humane, on-farm processing for thousands of birds each year. This unit will facilitate the growth of pastured poultry operations in the area to meet the ever-growing demand for pastured chicken raised according to high welfare standards.

The Royal Butcher in Braintree, VT was given funds to purchase a new squeeze chute. This new equipment will facilitate safer, humane handling, reduce stress for animals and plant workers and improve overall welfare for cattle, sheep, pigs and goats slaughtered at the plant.

More information about the Animal Welfare Approved Good Husbandry Grants, including profiles of grants given in the past, is available at www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org/farmers. Stay informed about grant opportunities by signing up for the AWA mailing list at www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org.

Grant-winning proposals for the 2010-2011 funding cycle include:

A&J Farms, Fayette, NY-*Viable outdoor access for poultry*

Abundance Farm, Round Hill, VA-*Improvements in the slaughter process*

Acre Station Meat Farm, Pinetown, NC-*New low-stress loading dock for livestock*

Berry Creek Farm, Blanchard, OK-*Mobile housing for pastured chickens*

Blakes Landing Farms, Marshall, CA-*Calf feeding automation improvements*

Deutsch Family Farm, Osseo, WI-*Improved housing for breeding stock hogs on pasture*

Dutch James Farm, Mt. Herson, LA-*Infrastructure improvements to maximize welfare*

Eagle Bridge Custom Meat and Smokehouse, Eagle Bridge, NY-*Welfare improvements in the slaughter process*

Ecotone Farm, Joelton, TN-*Mobile processing unit*

Finger Lakes Dexter Creamery, King Ferry, NY-*Improved access to pasture for improved welfare*

Foxhollow Poultry Farm, Elkhart, IA-*On-farm hatchery*

Fruitland American Meat, LLC, Doniphan, MO-*Improved welfare by use of a chin lift system*

GingerSnap Hollow Farms, Harlem, GA-*Fencing and generator project*

Grazin' Angus Acres, Ghent, NY-*Mobile chicken housing*



Hens Nest Farm, Cottonwood, AZ-Narragansett turkey breeding program
High Ground Farm, Holly Springs, NC-Predator Control
John Smith Hill's Farm, Spartanburg, SC-Improvements in processing
Joyner Farm, Faison, NC-Mobile shelter for pastured sheep production
Midsummer Farm, Warwick, NY-Heritage chicken breeding program
Nelson Land and Livestock, Wadesboro, NC-Mobile processing unit
Old Field Farm, Cornwallville, NY-Genetic improvement for pastured pig production
R. Turner Farms, Inc., Albertson, NC-Mobile housing for pastured hogs
River Rock Family Farm, South Weber, UT-Breeding program for heritage breed chickens/ducks
The Royal Butcher, Braintree, VT-New squeeze chute
SMI Farm, Masonville, NY-On-farm processing facilities
Terra Firma Farm, Stonington, CT-Pastured egg production
Williams Farm, Magnolia, NC-Utilizing Port-A-Huts on harvested cropland for hogs
Windy Ridge Natural Farms, Alfred, NY-Mobile henhouse for pastured laying hens

Animal Welfare Approved audits and certifies family farms that raise their animals with the highest animal welfare standards, outdoors, on pasture or range. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has lauded these standards for two years running as being the most stringent when compared to other third-party certification programs. Visit www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org for an online directory of approved farms, as well as restaurants, shops and markets where AWA farmers' products are sold. Choose the one independent food label that means healthy, safe, environmentally responsible and humanely raised.

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