



Heritage Livestock Microgrant Application

Instructions:

The Livestock Conservancy offers competitive small grants to heritage breed enterprises to enhance the competitiveness and stability of heritage breed livestock and poultry farms. Funds may be used for improvements for farm animals and infrastructure, promotion and marketing, improved production efficiency, farmer education, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales, agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions, and marketing.

Who should apply? Applicants can choose to apply for only one category of the microgrant program including:

- **National grants** program open to all residents and organizations residing and actively working with heritage breeds in the United States. A fencing-related project is supported by [Premier 1 Supplies](#)
- **Youth grants** program open to all youth residents of the United State between the ages of 8-18 years old and actively working with heritage breeds.
- **Breed Association grants** program open to all associations and clubs based in the U.S. actively working with heritage breeds. Applicant organizations must be in existence for a minimum of three years, meet their state's requirements for operating as a business or corporation, (no Sole Proprietors or Partnerships), and have board approval to pursue the project for the microgrant. Exceptions may be granted at the sole discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

Applicants must:

1. Currently work with livestock, poultry, or products from purebred animals on The Livestock Conservancy's [Conservation Priority List](#) of heritage breeds (CPL). Strong preference is given to applicants who are already raising the species and breed described in the project, to maximize the conservation impact of microgrants
2. Complete the application which must include a detailed plan for the use of the grant funds, project goals and methods, a list of deliverables that can be validated, a clear timeline for achieving proposed goals, a detailed project budget including matching funds or other resources, how the project will impact the breed and other producers, and how you will evaluate success.
3. Include two letters of recommendation from a professional relationship or educator; if applicant is under the age of 18, a letter of support from a parent or guardian is additionally required. These can be attached within the online application in the form of a PDF, MS Word, or JPEG file. Letters may not be requested of or provided by current staff or board members of The Livestock Conservancy.

Special consideration will be given to farmers who are active stewards breeding their rare breeds, members of The Livestock Conservancy and/or rare breed clubs and associations, those who are active participants or mentors in their agricultural communities, farm groups, or marketing cooperatives.

Successful entrants are required to submit a detailed written report on the use and impact of the micro grant funds within one year of acceptance of the award of the funding.

How can the grant be spent? Suitable expenditures of grant funds include the purchase, production and marketing of CPL animals and their products, and agri-tourism using CPL breeds. Examples of expenditures include, but are not limited to, purchase of livestock or poultry to improve existing herds or flocks, producer training programs, fences, facilities, supplies, and specialized equipment, or product marketing. Funds must be used as stated in the applicant's proposal. Funds may not be used for wages or compensation for individuals. Use of funds inconsistent with the proposal will result in forfeiture of award and repayment of funds. Receipts for purchases will be required for reimbursement, or grantees may request purchase to be made directly by the Livestock Conservancy. Farmers have one year to use their funds.

How much is awarded? The amount of award can be from \$500-\$2,000. If you don't need the full \$2000, it allows us to use the extra funding for other projects!

When are applications due? Applications may be submitted beginning May 28, 2024. Electronic applications must be received at The Livestock Conservancy's office no later than August 31, 2024. Paper applications must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2024. Winners will be contacted individually in November and December and must complete all of the required paperwork within (2 weeks) of receipt. Awards will be announced to the public by January 2025. A list of winners will be available online at www.livestockconservancy.org.

The Livestock Conservancy is a national non-profit membership organization that works to protect over 150 breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction. Grants to farmers are made possible through the generous contributions of grantors and private individuals.

Current employees and Directors of The Livestock Conservancy and their spouses are not eligible for the program nor may they write letters of recommendation. Qualified applicants will be considered without regard to age, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

Application

* = required field. You may attach separate sheets of paper if space on the application is not sufficient for a field entry.

*Name of applicant -

*Program you are applying for (Circle one)

National

Premier-1

Youth

Breed Association or Club

Farm name

*Address

*Phone

*Email Website/Social Media

*Title of Project

*Breed – What CPL breed(s) of livestock/poultry the project will impact?

*History – Detail your history with the breed(s) impacted by the project, including products and/or markets created for them. (up to 300 words)

*Clubs/Cooperatives - Are you a member of breed club, breed association, or active in a farming or ag organization or farmer cooperative? Specify if you held any positions with them.

*Project Goal - Provide a detailed plan for use of the funds including your project objectives, goals, methods, and anticipated outcomes. Include how it will impact your breed(s), how the funds will help you reach your target, and how it impacts existing projects on your farm. Note any potential, reasonable obstacles to achieving the proposed deliverables and mention how those challenges may be addressed. (up to 1000 words)

*Timeline - Provide a detailed timeline for project including tasks, expected completion dates, and periodic evaluations that measure success as the project progresses. (up to 300 words)

*Budget - Budget for project including additional resources (personal or other) that will be used to support the project. Break down each expenditure in detail from the grant funding and for additional resource expenditures. (up to 500 words)

*Evaluation - Detail how you intend to evaluate the progress of success (or failure) of the project both during and at the completion of the project. *Provide methods that will be used to measure the success of your project. (up to 300 words)

*Benefits to Others - Describe how other farmers will learn from your project, mentorship activities that you will undertake, and any local or regional events that you plan to attend to further promote the work. (up to 300 words)

By signing this you attest that all the information above is accurate and acknowledge that if use of funds is found to be inconsistent with the proposal, or a follow up report is not submitted within 12 months after the award of the grant, it will result in forfeiture of award and repayment of funds by the applicant to The Livestock Conservancy. Receipts for purchases will be required as documentation of proper fund expenditure. Farmers have one year to use their funds. Qualified applicants will be considered without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

*Signature

*Date

Submit this application along with two letters of support and cover letter.

For Youth grants please also include a parental letter of consent together with aforementioned letters of support.

Mail the application and supporting materials, postmarked no later than August 15, 2024, to:

The Livestock Conservancy

PO Box 477

Pittsboro, NC 27312