FARM SANCTUARY

Request for Proposals

Farm Sanctuary seeks to conduct and fund original research with the sanctuary residents that supports human understanding of the cognitive, social, and emotional lived experiences of farmed animals. This research could draw from a variety of disciplines including but not limited to animal ethology, animal welfare science, veterinary medicine, and/or anthropology and other social sciences. Through increased understanding of farmed animal cognitive, emotional, and social capacities, this research could also explore the mutually liberatory potential for human-animal relationships and community in a sanctuary setting. Finally, this broader understanding of the lived experiences of farmed animals may allow for critical examination of ethics of care and captivity; support holistic emotional, social, physical, and community care; and explore radical modes of listening, observing, and understanding the expressed desires and potential agency of farm animals. Research projects should focus on one or more of the species living at Farm Sanctuary (i.e., cattle, chickens, goats, pigs, sheep, turkeys, ducks, geese) with research questions that address one or more of the following topic areas:

- Cognition
- Personality
- Emotion
- Sociality including capacities for relationships with heterospecifics including humans

We recognize that research methods have the potential to perpetuate oppressive hierarchies and systemic inequity and injustice if researchers are not intentional about engaging in counter-oppressive research practices. Our mission is grounded
in a commitment to continuously interrogate and evolve our methodology to counter potential harm and the perpetuation of oppression. That commitment includes, but is not limited to, working to ensure that our research approach counters practices that reflect the logic of human and white supremacy by centering racial justice and the care, needs, and interests of animal residents.

All research must be planned with high levels of scientific rigor, in accordance with our Research Ethics Guidelines, and should aim to contribute to our mission to “pursue bold solutions to end animal agriculture and foster just and compassionate vegan living” and our strategic priority to “change the way society views and treats farm animals” through the creation of a more complete understanding of the inner lives of farmed animals.

Research can either be conducted on-site at either our Acton or Watkins Glen sanctuaries or could be conducted remotely through video data collection.

Small grants ($2,000 - $3,000) will be provided to researchers to cover travel, lodging, and research supplies. A detailed budget should be submitted with each grant proposal.

All proposals will be reviewed internally by the Research and Animal Care teams and will go through a formal review process with the Research with the Animals Advisory Committee (RAAC). Grant applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

All grant applications should include a research question, hypothesis, detailed methods, potential contribution to the Farm Sanctuary mission, and detailed budget.

**Please submit grant applications via email to ltorgerson@farmsanctuary.org**

Include the word “GRANT” and the title of your project in the subject line.