



Farm of the Free Animal Sanctuary

2024 Annual Report

"A Year of Growth and Gratitude"

Pg 1

In total, we provided lifelong care to over 40 animals this year, ensuring they receive the love, care, and dignity they deserve. Every rescued life is a testament to the compassion of our supporters.

Welcoming New Residents

This year, we celebrated the arrival of four rescue cows to Paddock Paradise, our improved pasture designed to provide safety and space for our larger residents. These cows were rescued from slaughter earlier this year thanks to the tireless efforts of a compassionate advocate. One cow's story became even more remarkable when she surprised her rescuer with the birth of a baby boy in July, bringing hope and new beginnings to their journey.

"We're honored to provide these cows with a sanctuary where they can thrive," said Ryan Bulzan, Executive Director. "Their story reminds us of the importance of advocating for all animals and offers a powerful example of the connections we can build when we embrace kindness."

Thanks to your generosity, we strengthened the fencing and relocated two run-ins in Paddock Paradise for the donkeys. These improvements have created not only a safe environment but also a space where these cows and donkeys can thrive and form bonds with each other and with our sanctuary team.



Investing in Our Future: Key Improvements in 2024

As we close out another remarkable year at Farm of the Free Animal Sanctuary, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each of you. Your support made 2024 a transformative year for the sanctuary and the residents we serve. Together, we accomplished so much, and we are excited to share these milestones with you.

This year marked a significant milestone for our team with the hiring of a third animal caregiver, expanding our ability to provide exceptional care to our residents. Our dedicated caregiver team—Charlie, Anne, and Kim—forms the heart of Farm of the Free. Their unwavering commitment ensures every resident receives love, attention, and the highest standards of care.

With the addition of a vital team member, we've expanded our opportunities, including private and educational tours that connect visitors to our mission and foster a deeper understanding of animal welfare and veganism. Furthermore, their support has allowed us to tackle critical projects across the sanctuary, ensuring it remains a safe and welcoming space for both animals and people.

This year, we were able to make significant improvements to our operations and provide better care for our residents:

- **Replacing Our Lawn Mower:** When our lawn mower died, we successfully raised money to replace it with a high-quality used mower, ensuring we could maintain our pastures and grounds.
- **Acquiring a Cow Chute:** This specialized equipment allows veterinarians to safely perform procedures on our beloved cows on-site, eliminating the stress of transporting them to a clinic.
- **Strengthening Fencing and Adding Run-Ins:** We fortified the Paddock Paradise fencing for our rescue cows and relocated two run-ins for our donkeys, adding comfort and safety for these gentle residents.
- **Creating a Pedestrian Path:** To respect our animals' space and consent, we built a dedicated pedestrian path that allows visitors to engage with our residents without needing to enter their enclosures. This improvement enhances both the safety of our visitors and the well-being of our animals.

Thanks to a generous major donation, we were able to implement crucial upgrades that had a direct positive impact on the lives of our residents. This substantial gift was vital in enhancing the quality of services and amenities we provide. By ensuring that our animals have what they need, we can create a more comfortable and supportive environment for everyone who calls this place home.



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Volunteer Growth

Our volunteer program flourished this year, contributing hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours. We hosted nine volunteer caregiver + vegan potluck days at the sanctuary with turnouts of 10 or more dedicated individuals each time, demonstrating the incredible power of collective effort. Volunteers not only helped with sanctuary tasks but also shared delicious vegan dishes, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. These events highlighted the importance of coming together to support our residents while enjoying and promoting a vegan lifestyle.

We also have a dedicated inner group of volunteers who come to the sanctuary weekly to help put the animals to bed. Their tireless commitment in all weather conditions ensures our residents are cared for with love and consistency.

This remarkable growth fuels our determination to expand this inner group to 10 weekly volunteers by May 2025. Special thanks to everyone who stepped up to help put the animals to bed each night. Your dedication is the heartbeat of our sanctuary, making a real difference in the lives of our animal residents and ensuring smooth daily operations.



"Volunteering at Farm of the Free has become one of the highlights of my week. My favorite part is bonding with the residents and seeing their unique personalities shine. Between the wonderful residents and the dedicated caregivers, the sanctuary projects a sense of community that makes it feel like home." -Lindsey Stowell

Partnership Highlight



The FOTF and Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta partnership continued this year with a table set up at Camp Gwinnett. This annual event welcomed back FOTF for the second year in a row. This wonderful partnership and opportunity was identified and coordinated by one of our amazing board members, Jessica Eleazer.

Remembering Our Beloved Residents

While 2024 was a year of growth and joy, it was also a time to say goodbye to a few members of our sanctuary family. We are deeply grateful to our supporters, who made it possible for Cash, Cherry Pie, and Rosie to live lives filled with care and compassion. Their memories inspire us to continue our mission and honor their spirits through our work.



Johnny Cash

Our beloved pasture guardian, Cash, passed away due to a progressive injury that ultimately affected his limbs, causing significant pain. Despite exhaustive veterinary efforts and medications, his quality of life had deteriorated. Cash was a gentle giant known for adoring his pasture-mate, Waylon, and his playful antics, like chasing garbage trucks and shooing geese.

Rescued from the veal industry in 2017, Cash lived a life of dignity and joy at Farm of the Free. His presence was a gift to all, and his legacy will forever inspire us to advocate for all sentient beings.

Cherry Pie and Rosie, two remarkable hens, also left us this year. Cherry Pie was rescued from a dire situation in Jasper, Georgia, where she tragically lost most of her chicks before being saved. Known for her spicy and talkative nature, she kept harmony within the flock and shared a special bond with her daughters and the rooster, Dave. Rosie, a survivor of the egg-laying industry, was rescued after enduring unimaginable conditions. She was a calm, happy soul who brought peace and grace to the sanctuary. Both hens lived full, beautiful lives at Farm of the Free.



Cherry Pie



Rosie



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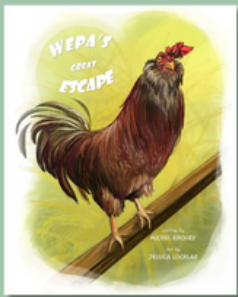
*Together
We Can!*

For those who share our vision of compassion and sustainability, you have the power to shape the sanctuary's future. In 2025, our goal is to raise \$120,000 to meet our operational needs. Together, we can create a future where a working Georgia farm sanctuary is the cornerstone of vegan education and advocacy, driving meaningful change for animals and people alike.



Achievement Highlight

We self-published a children's book titled *Wepa's Great Escape* on Amazon. For next year, we plan to seek a publisher to help distribute the book to bookstores



"Wepa's Great Escape tells the true tale of a chicken who fled from a life of misery and ultimately to a life of freedom at the Farm of the Free Animal Sanctuary. As much as it is a story of liberation, it also gently reminds the reader to be confident and true to one's self. Written in rhythmic prose and accompanied by beautiful illustrations, this book is perfect for toddlers and young children but also suitable for all ages. Bonus: learn how different cultures hear a rooster's crow in their language!"



Community Impact: Educating and Inspiring

Education remains at the heart of our mission. In 2024, we hosted:

- **Nine Volunteer Caregiver + Vegan Potluck Days:** These events brought together individuals to tackle sanctuary projects while enjoying a shared vegan meal. Attendees contributed their favorite vegan dishes and recipe cards, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and learning. By fostering a sense of community and promoting vegan living, these potluck days became a highlight of our year.



- **Nine Open Barn Days:** These special days allowed visitors to explore the sanctuary free of charge. Guests enjoyed guided tours, met our residents, and connected with our dedicated staff. Each event was an opportunity to foster compassion and understanding while providing an inside look at sanctuary life.
- **A Summer Foraging Event:** The incredible Anne-Marie Bilella, known as the Forager Chick, led attendees in an immersive exploration of wild plants at the sanctuary. Participants learned about edible and medicinal flora, enjoyed foraged snacks, and made wild pesto to take home. This event highlighted the beauty of sustainable living and our deep connection to the natural world.
- **A Fundraiser at Flour + Time Bakery:** Vegan food enthusiasts packed this beloved Atlanta bakery for an evening of indulgence and compassion. General Admission attendees savored unlimited vegan pastries and beverages, while VIP guests participated in an exclusive sourdough bread-making class. This brought the community together to support the sanctuary while celebrating cruelty-free living.





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Looking Ahead

As we look forward to 2025, Farm of the Free is poised to build on this year's accomplishments with bold goals. Our vision is to deepen our impact, expand our reach, and continue fostering a compassionate, vegan world. Key ambitions include:

- **Educating and Inspiring:** We aim to educate hundreds of individuals through immersive programs and sanctuary visits, connecting people to our mission and the stories of our residents.
- **Strengthening Our Volunteer Program:** Growing our dedicated team of volunteers to 10 weekly participants by May 2025, ensuring consistent care for our residents and support for sanctuary operations.
- **Enhancing Animal Care:** Expanding enrichment initiatives and laying the groundwork for building an enclosure for rescuing pigs in the future. This ambitious plan depends on meeting our current operational funding needs of \$120,000 and securing additional support.
- **Expanding Educational Programs:** Developing new school outreach initiatives, refining tour materials, and increasing accessibility to vegan education for a broader audience.
- **Investing in Infrastructure:** Upgrading animal habitats, creating visitor pathways, and enhancing educational spaces to ensure the sanctuary remains a welcoming and innovative hub for learning and advocacy.
- **Building Community Partnerships:** Collaborating with local organizations, schools, and advocacy groups to amplify our vegan message and promote systemic change in animal welfare..



Community Impact: Educating and Inspiring Cont'd

- **A Birthday Concert Fundraiser:** Hosted at Waller's in Decatur, this lively event celebrated a special birthday with music by Kim Ware and Kelsey Wilson. Guests enjoyed a stunning vegan birthday cake crafted by a local artist. All proceeds directly benefited the sanctuary, making it a fun night of music and giving.



- **Flocktoberfest:** This annual fall celebration drew 50 attendees for an unforgettable day of vegan food, games, and sanctuary tours. Special guest Christopher 'Soul' Eubanks inspired the crowd with his powerful keynote speech, highlighting the importance of collective action for animal rights. The event also featured a raffle for new or upgraded members, adding a layer of excitement to the festivities.



- **Trunk or Treat** was a festive Halloween event where families enjoyed trick-or-treating, meeting our residents, and learning about the sanctuary's mission. This fun-filled day combined car decorations, costumes, s'mores, and vegan candy, leaving attendees with lasting memories of compassion and kindness.
- **Animal Communication:** In collaboration with The Animal Communication Collective, we hosted an evening of soul-level animal communication featuring live animal readings by professional communicators Karen, Meredith, Tracey, and Monica. Attendees learned about the fascinating practice of animal communication and had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for private readings. The annual event was a heartwarming success, with 100% of donations supporting the sanctuary's mission.



Farm of the Free Animal Sanctuary 2024 Annual Report

"A Year of Growth and Gratitude"

Pg 5

Thank You

None of this would be possible without you, our supporters, donors, and volunteers. Together, we are creating a world where every life is valued and protected. We also extend our deepest appreciation to our incredible board of directors for their guidance and unwavering support, and to our remarkable team, Charlie, Anne, and Kim, who form the core of the sanctuary. Their tireless dedication ensures our residents receive the best care possible and that our mission continues to thrive.

On behalf of our entire board of directors, along with Carmen, Greg, our team, and all the residents at Farm of the Free, thank you for your unwavering support and for being part of this journey.

With gratitude and hope,

Ryan Bulzan

Executive Director (he/him/his)

Farm of the Free Animal Sanctuary



Financial Stewardship: Building Sustainability

At Farm of the Free, we understand that meaningful impact is built on a foundation of financial responsibility and strategic growth. In 2024, we made significant progress in ensuring the sanctuary's long-term sustainability by combining a three-year vision with meticulous resource management.

Our growing monthly membership program now generates \$3,800 in recurring revenue each month, bringing us closer to our ambitious goal of \$10,000. This consistent support not only gives stability but also creates a direct connection between our supporters and the transformative care they enable for our residents. Each membership represents a shared commitment to a compassionate future.

We also leveraged creative fundraising campaigns, including a custom engraved brick drive, which engages our community while addressing critical needs. These efforts exemplify how storytelling and purpose-driven initiatives can generate meaningful support.

Operational efficiency remains a cornerstone of our financial stewardship. These essential upgrades and additions were made largely possible through a generous major gift, reflecting the extraordinary dedication of our supporters. When faced with unexpected challenges, like the breakdown of our lawn mower, we acted swiftly, launching a targeted fundraiser that secured a high-quality replacement without disrupting daily operations. This ability to adapt ensures every dollar is maximized for impact.

Additionally, we partnered with a skilled grant writer to pursue funding for key projects such as operations, education, and advocacy. While these applications have not yet yielded grants, we recognize that grants for vegan farm sanctuaries are notoriously scarce and often not substantial enough to meet operational needs. Nevertheless, these efforts position us for future success and underscore our commitment to long-term growth and sustainability.

By embracing transparency and a commitment to our vision, we are building a sanctuary that is not just sustainable but exceptional.

With your continued support, we are confident in our ability to achieve our goals and further our mission of "creating a space where every being feels safe to be exactly who they are."

The journey ahead is filled with opportunity, and together, we can make 2025 a milestone year for Farm of the Free and the animals we serve.