



**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE NO EARLIER THAN 11/4/19**

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## **Wild Hearts African Farm Receives National Certification for the Humane Treatment of its Animals**

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### **Educational Facility Teaching the Importance of Animals Is the First in Ohio to Earn the Humane Certified™ Seal**

**LEWISBURG, OHIO, November 4, 2019** — Wild Hearts African Farm, an educational facility and agritourism destination in Lewisburg that teaches the importance of animals in our world, has become the first facility in Ohio to earn the “Humane Certified™” seal from American Humane, the country’s first national humane organization and the world’s largest certifier of animal welfare and well-being. To achieve this certification, Wild Hearts African Farm had to pass a rigorous, science-based audit by an independent animal expert confirming humane treatment and adherence to a comprehensive spectrum of positive welfare indicators.

The Humane Certified program is the first of its kind solely devoted to helping verify the welfare, well-being and objectively good treatment of animals living in zoological, educational, and conservation settings around the globe. The program enforces rigorous, science-based and comprehensive criteria for animal welfare, developed by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee comprised of world-renowned leaders in the fields of animal science, animal behavior, and animal ethics.

“The public rightly demands that animals in human care receive objectively and verifiably good treatment in conditions that meet scientifically based welfare criteria,” said Paul Boyle, Ph.D., national director of the Humane Certified program overseeing the care of animals living in zoological settings around the world. “We commend Wild Hearts African Farm for voluntarily opening their doors and undergoing exhaustive examinations including in-depth comprehensive assessments of actual animal welfare conditions and practices for the more than 25 species who call the facility home.”

The facility houses such animals as African tortoises and porcupines, Nigerian dwarf goats, sheep, Patagonian maras, hedgehogs, mini pigs, ducks, and native wildlife including owls, hawks and an eagle.

“Wild Hearts African Farm is thrilled to be the first Humane Certified zoo in Ohio,” said founder and director Amanda Badger. “Although our facility is both small and young, we have aspired to achieve excellence from the very beginning. Through our guided Farm Tours and Mobile Teaching Zoo programs, our goal has been to reach as many people as possible about the human connection to wildlife conservation. We want people to

know they can make a difference. After achieving this milestone, our visitors and community can have peace of mind knowing that Wild Hearts provides topnotch nutrition, housing, social conditions, veterinary care, and is among the finest zoos in the world in achieving this honor. We are very proud of this achievement!" said Badger.

"Wild Hearts is an asset to our community with their beautiful farm and education programs," said Lewisburg Mayor Marsha Jones. "When I heard the news of their Humane Certification award, I was not surprised in the least. Amanda and her team always go above and beyond. It is an honor to be the home of the very first Humane Certified™ zoo in Ohio, right here in Lewisburg!"

"Having been to Wild Hearts I can say this award is well-deserved," said J. Todd Smith, State Representative, House District 43. "I visit many businesses throughout Ohio, and it is wonderful to see a small-town non-profit like Wild Hearts operating at the caliber of a well-funded big city zoo. Their hard work sets an example to dream and achieve big. Wild Hearts will surely become a vital asset to the economic growth of our community just as it has already been a source of joy for so many in our region."

The American Humane program's extensive criteria exhaustively verify the many dimensions of animal welfare and well-being, with areas of evaluation including: good health and housing; positive social interactions within groups of animals, as well as between animals and handlers; safe and stimulating environments, with concern for factors such as appropriate lighting, sound levels, air quality, and thermoregulation; and evidence of thorough preparation and protocols established to prevent and manage medical or operational emergencies.

For added rigor, Wild Hearts African Farm's compliance with the Humane Certified program's standards was verified through audits by independent animal experts.

"We believe all animals, including those being cared for in our zoos, aquariums, and conservation parks, are entitled to humane treatment," said Dr. Boyle. "We think that it is a good thing that more and more zoological institutions are allowing an independent humane group to scrutinize their operations and verify with objective measures the level of care their animals are provided. This is good for the public, good for the audited organization so they can demonstrate their commitment to proper welfare or raise their standards, and most of all, good for the remarkable and endangered creatures we all want to preserve."

You can read more about the Humane Certified program here: [www.HumaneConservation.org](http://www.HumaneConservation.org).

### **About American Humane**

Founded in 1877, American Humane is the country's first national humane organization. For more information about American Humane, please visit [www.AmericanHumane.org](http://www.AmericanHumane.org).

### **About Wild Hearts African Farm**

Wild Hearts African Farm's mission is to make a positive impact on wildlife conservation both locally and globally through unique educational experiences while providing a fun and recreational resource for our community. Wild Hearts is located at 8079 Salem Rd. Lewisburg, Ohio 45338. For more information, please visit [www.wildheartsafricanfarm.org](http://www.wildheartsafricanfarm.org).



# EDUCATION CENTER AT WILD HEARTS AFRICAN FARM

4/15



RENDERING OF ENTIRE CAMPUS  
WILD HEARTS CONCEPT PLAN



Printed: September 19, 2007 | Project Number 2007-029  
 Property: 8079 Salem Road, Lewisburg, Ohio 45338  
 Prepared By: Plan 4 Land, LLC | P.O. Box 167, Radnor, Ohio 43086  
 Jurisdiction: Harrison Township, Preble County, Ohio  
 Licensed Designer: Joe Clegg, AICP | (614) 512-0182 | www.plan4land.net  
 Perspective View  
 Plans are Subject to Survey.  
 Production Rights Reserved  
 © 2016 Plan 4 Land, LLC  
 Original Date: March 23, 2007  
**Plan 4 Land** 811  
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

5/15



RENDERING FROM JORDAN ROAD  
WILD HEARTS CONCEPT PLAN



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Know what's below. Call before you dig.



P O Box 697, 112 S Commerce Street, Lewisburg, OH 45338  
Phone: 937-962-4377 Fax: 937-962-2900

October 28th, 2019

Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
C/O Dayton Development Coalition  
900 Kettering Tower  
Dayton, OH 45423

Re: 2019 PDAC Letter of Support for Wild Hearts African Farm

Dear PDAC Members,

I support Wild Hearts African Farm application for Priority Development and Advocacy funding. Their presence in our community lends to tourism and consequently economic development.

Residents welcome the educational opportunities that Wild Heart brings to our village.

Attendance at Brown Memorial Library, Garber Nature Center, Lewisburg Block Parties and various programs/activities have been enthusiastic and well received.

Wild Heart participates in Lewisburg Chamber of Commerce events and is well supported by local businesses.

Please consider being an advocate of their wildlife conservation and educational experiences through funds to their mission.

Thank you,

Marsha Jones

Mayor, Lewisburg, Ohio



10/28/2019

Catherine Harrison  
8766 Salem Rd.  
Lewisburg, Ohio 45338

RE: Letter of Support for Wild Hearts African Farm 2019 PDAC Application

Dear PDAC,

I am a resident of Preble County and I live a few houses down from Amanda Badger and Wild Hearts African Farm located at 8079 Salem Rd. Amanda invited me over and all I can say is WOW! She really has done remarkable things with the land and the animals. Her place is incredibly clean by the highest standards. Not only that, but you can really sense Amanda's passion for conservation and wildlife, and her enthusiasm for teaching families about wildlife conservation. Lewisburg is really fortunate to have Wild Hearts.

Wild Hearts African Farm is also great for our community because it showcases farming from a different perspective and promotes agritourism. This project will also help bring jobs and economic growth to our area. Recently, Lewisburg has had a resurgence of small business activity, including boutique shops and restaurants. Wild Hearts will surely complement our local businesses and help make our community thrive.

I wholeheartedly welcome Wild Hearts African Farm to our neighborhood, and look forward to the amazing programs they are offering and their plans for the future. I think other families both local and out of the area would really enjoy a visit to Wild Hearts and our town of Lewisburg.

Without hesitation, I ask that you recommend Wild Hearts African Farm for priority funding this year. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Catherine Harrison

[catherine.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.harrison@gmail.com)  
937-671-0832



# PREBLE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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117 E. WALNUT ST. SUITE A FARMERSVILLE, OH 45325

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October 28th, 2019

Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
C/O Dayton Development Coalition  
900 Kettering Tower  
Dayton, OH 45423

***RE: 2019 PDAC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WILD HEARTS AFRICAN FARM***

Dear PDAC Members:

As the President of The Preble County Farm Bureau, I would like to offer our full support for the 2019 PDAC Application for Wild Hearts African Farm in Lewisburg, Ohio. We are part of the Ohio Farm Bureau, which formed in 1919 with the goal to assist farmers throughout the state. Agriculture accounts for one in seven jobs in the state of Ohio through direct and indirect employment, which is an incredibly important factor for the Preble County workforce.

The Farm Bureau is committed to growing Ohio's farms and supporting agriculture jobs. In 2016, Governor John Kasich passed Senate Bill 75, which promotes and protects farms like Wild Hearts African Farm and their ability to offer "agritourism" - which is inviting tourists onto working farms for education, recreation and participation in farming activities. We are thrilled that Wild Hearts African Farm chose Preble County as their location for this agritourism venue because of the diversity of African culture educational components make this incredibly distinct and unique.

Although Preble County has vast amounts of traditional farmland, few locations exist here or anywhere else in the Miami Valley that showcase a culturally themed woman-operated farm that also promotes environment and wildlife conservation, while offering educational and fun opportunities for the whole family. This will be a welcomed location for our students in veterinary and FFA programs to gain hands-on service learning hours for their resumes. Wild Hearts African Farm is also sure to draw thousands of visitors per year, many of whom may become future Preble County farmers or residents.

The Preble County Farm Bureau believes the quality of life in Preble County is tied to a strong commitment to agriculture support, educational opportunities for our youth, jobs and attractive recreational amenities. We invite the PDAC committee to share this commitment with us and prioritize funding Wild Hearts African Farm.

Thank you,

***Brad Guckian***

Brad Guckian  
President  
Preble County Farm Bureau



# Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce

245 Sycamore Street ♦ PO Box 84 ♦ Brookville Ohio ♦ 45309 ♦ 937.833.2375  
admin@brookvilleareachamber.org ♦ www.brookvilleareachamber.org

October 28th, 2019

Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
C/O Dayton Development Coalition  
900 Kettering Tower  
Dayton, OH 45423

***RE: 2019 PDAC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WILD HEARTS AFRICAN FARM***

Dear PDAC Members,

As a representative of the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce, we would like to offer our full support for the 2019 PDAC Application for Wild Hearts African Farm in our neighboring town of Lewisburg, Ohio. We feel they have a strong business plan and look forward to the growth they will provide for the surrounding communities in the northwestern corner of the Miami Valley.

The Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce prides ourselves on promoting and supporting our member businesses and organizations, helping to foster a strong economic environment, and building a vibrant community. We feel that Wild Hearts African Farm has already become a great partner in each of these endeavors. They have offered endless support for community events, including our annual festival, our fall Halloween event and involvement with our community Farmer's Market. Wild Hearts African Farm has most recently partnered with Brookville Local Schools allowing special needs students to visit the farm and engage in real world vocational experience.

We do not currently have any businesses in the area that can bring this kind of agritourism education to our citizens and we are very excited to add that feature to our growing community. We are thrilled that Wild Hearts African Farm will be able to continue to work with local school districts to provide this type of learning environment to students both young and old!

We hope the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee shares in our excitement for Wild Hearts African Farm, the opportunities that it will bring to the area, and the unlimited education it can offer to our community each year. We encourage you to support their commitment to making a positive impact on wildlife conservation through educational experiences and to make their unique project a priority for advocacy and funding.

Thank you,

Angie Dull  
Member Relations



**CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

P.O. BOX 1004 ♦ WILBERFORCE, OH 45384-1004 ♦ 937-376-6652 ♦ FAX 937-376-6680

November 2, 2018

Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
C/O Dayton Development Coalition  
900 Kettering Tower,  
Dayton, OH 45423

*RE: 2018 PDAC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WILD HEARTS AFRICAN FARM*

Dear PDAC Members,

This letter is in support of **Wild Hearts African Farm's 2018 PDAC application**. Central State University Extension (CSUE) is excited to partner and collaborate with Wild Hearts African Farm as a satellite learning site, through their unique learning opportunities and programs at their educational farm in Preble County, Ohio. By funding this worthy project, CSUE 4-H Youth Development will be eager to bring our program participants and educators to Lewisburg and forge a stronger partnership to educate youth from throughout our region.

This past summer I toured Wild Hearts African Farm and was thrilled to see such a unique destination that offers a pathway for youth to discover cultures different from our own and teaches how farms can be a wild landscape for science-based programs. We would like to help Wild Hearts offer these distinct programs to youth in the Dayton region who may never have the resources to visit far and away places. This exposure will allow students to develop new futures by providing them with innovative learning programs including STEM-oriented education, skills training, relationship building, and community **volunteering options**. **By opening children's hearts and minds to cultures seemingly different than their own we inspire a world of more belonging and will develop their confidence, potential, skills and passion to become agents of change to teach and influence others. We believe every student can be a "Wild Heart" by being true to themselves, assuring them they can make a difference, and empowering them with knowledge to achieve their goals.**

As a university that focuses on women and minorities, we sincerely ask PDAC to rank Wild Hearts African Farm as a priority project, so that more people, especially children in this demographic can be reached through the fun and educational opportunities it will provide. We are excited to partner with Wild Hearts African Farm on this very important project and are hopeful that the project will be funded.

Sincerely,

**Prosper K Doamekpor, Ph. D.**

*Program Leader | 4-H and Youth Development*

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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