Pennsylvania

Business Programs - Value Added Producer Grant

USDA Grant Boosts Heritage Breed Livestock Producer Farm thrive

For Shelly Oswald , owner of Old Time Farm in Stoneboro, Pa., the novel coronavirus pandemic illustrates the vital role small, local agriculture producers play in safeguarding food security during a disaster. The pandemic caused nationwide delays in the shipping of

Free roaming Partridge Chantecler chickens search for food at Old Time Farm in Stoneboro, Pa. These chickens are from Canada and a used by local farms because they are more accustomed to handling colder

Using the USDA Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program, Oswald – whose family farm serves customers within a hundred mile

“Thanks to our grant opportunity with Rural Development, we were able to let our community know we were present, willing, and ready to meet their food needs,” Oswald said.

Oswald used grant funds to offset the cost of marketing courses and workshops, where she refined her branding and outreach to underscore Old Time Farm’s keystone message on the importance of buying, raising, and protecting endangered heirloom breeds. She also

Because Old Time Farm specializes in heritage breeds, Shelly also was able to incubate and sell chicks and turkeys – along with their eggs – to area ag producers whose conventional poultry farms suffered from pandemic-related supply

“Supporting local food ensures we have skilled, good producers in our communities, local food-producing capacity in our region, and regionally-adapted plant and animal genetics in small, bio-diverse herds and flocks, so we can protect biosecurity, and conservation of the environment,” Oswald said.

Obligation Amount: $15,100.00

Date of Obligation: July 27, 2018

Congressional District: Kelly Mike (PA 03); Casey, Robert (PA), Toomey, Patrick (PA)

Partners: Not applicable

Demographics: This investment will help increase focus on the underserved farmers in Mercer and the

Impact: This Rural Development investment will be used to assist in bringing the benefits of locally bred, raised, and hatched poultry to the attention of local farmers and consumers. This project will