



## Strolling of the Heifers Educational Fund Grant Guidelines for Participating in 2008-2009 "Live Green!" Initiative

In addition to funding opportunities for school children in the Windham County area to learn about agriculture and about how family-owned farms contribute to the local quality of life, the Strolling of the Heifers is calling for proposals for grants of up to \$1,000 for local schools that have a "Live Green!" theme. The purpose of these start up grants is to underwrite school-wide projects pilot that educate the public about how to "Live Green!" Such projects will be "showcased" in the Strolling of the Heifers Parade or at the Dairy Fest following the parade on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

The \$1,000 in grant money will cover the school's development of a **pilot project** that involves the entire school in creating a **parade float, educational exhibit or theatrical performance** that educates the public about the environmental imperative of our time ... how essential it is for all us to "**Live Green!**" Funding also can be used to create a float or "act" for the parade that encourages the public to live in harmony with Mother Earth. In addition, schools may opt to "stage" a performance at the Children's Entertainment Tent during the Dairy Fest.

**Schools selected to receive funding for pilot projects in February 2008 will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 in additional funding in the Fall 2008.** This second round of grant funding will enable schools to delve more deeply in to the green theme they opt to explore.

AU projects should involve a local farmer in the development of a year-long exploration or analysis on how to sustain local agriculture or to "**Live Green!**", "**Eat Green!**" and/or "**Live Clean!**" Projects should raise awareness about how our community can reduce waste, save energy and/or serve as an example to stimulate the public to do so. A list of examples of projects schools may wish to explore is attached.

Proposals for additional funding will be due by September 1, 2008. Eighty percent of the grant money will be made available by September 30, 2008. The final 20% of the funding will be awarded following the school's presentation of their project findings at a "**Schools Taking the Bull by the Horns To Protect Our Future**" event. This event will occur at the River Garden as part of Strolling of the Heifers Parade & Festival Weekend in 2009.

**To apply, principals should submit a letter of intent by Thursday, March 13, 2008.** The letter should describe your school's project, a description of how your school plans to visually render the project as part of the Strolling of the Heifers Parade in 2008 or at the Dairy Fest following the parade. Specifics regarding how the \$1,000 in grant money for the pilot project will be spent must be included in the letter. (Money can be spent on materials, honoraria to farmers and teachers, and any other costs that are essential to your project.) Acceptance notification will be made by mid-March.

If you have questions or would like advice about your project's feasibility or farmers with whom to partner, please contact: **Orly Munzing, Executive Director of the Strolling of the Heifers, at 802-258-9177** or at [orly@svcable.net](mailto:orly@svcable.net).

Please mail grant proposals to:

**Strolling of the Heifers "Live Green!" Schools Initiative**

**162 Carpenter Road**

**Dummerston, VT 05301**

*Please note: Honoraria not to exceed \$50 per farmer or teacher. Grant money will only be awarded to non-profit organizations or schools.*

### **Examples of "Live Green!" themes for your consideration include:**

- ✓ Waste reduction strategies (this could involve recycling projects at school, or school taking lead in our goal to make this year's Heifers parade a zero-garbage event)
- ✓ Water conservation and quality preservation (schools can study the local watershed, explore dangers, positives potentially in conjunction with state or county agencies)
- ✓ Clean power initiatives (developing solar, leaf energy, for example Green Mountain Power - cow power school can partner with the company to explain / promote work)
- ✓ Themes related to caring for animals and the earth, for example, a school explores current problem with bees, the role bees play in food supply, implication for agriculture and honey
- ✓ Impact of Climate Change on area farmers right now and what to expect in future
- ✓ Rebuilding our soil, the foundation of life: Impact of depleted soils and practices to build them up. Research on how large mega-farms failure to compost leads to pollution, etc.
- ✓ Healthy eating initiative, schools promote/document students' dietary changes to reduce processed food consumption and increase whole foods
- ✓ Transportation alternatives (schools can explore new development in autos, develop a carpooling project, etc)
- ✓ Political action to avert climate change (school can help organize a political action campaign around, for instance, Al Gore's carbon reduction legislation - combines green living with civics)
- ✓ Researching new/future career opportunities in the new 'green' sector of the economy -- message: green business key to economic growth - biofuels, green building, can explore scientific innovations, present students' own ideas
- ✓ International look at climate change (India/China growth problem) and how people from different countries are working together to stem carbon emissions (schools may be able to coordinate with the School for International Training)