

October 14, 2025

Michael Vogenthaler
Principal
Frazier Mountain High School

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Vogenthaler,

I'm writing from [TeachKind](#), which works with thousands of schools across the U.S. to integrate compassion for animals into the learning experience. We were deeply saddened by the [news](#) of the break-in and attack at Frazier Mountain High School's barn that resulted in the death of Pancho the pig. Please accept our heartfelt condolences as your community grieves this devastating loss.

A student and FFA reporter, Mia Willson, [poignantly expressed](#), *"I know so many people firsthand who put ... compassion and the emotional aspect into their animals. And to have something like that happen is devastating."* Her words reflect the empathy and care that so many young people naturally feel—and they underscore the importance of channeling that compassion into positive, forward-thinking educational experiences.

Although Pancho's life cannot be replaced, his memory can inspire a decisive shift toward opportunities that reflect students' compassion and today's growing understanding of sustainability. **To support this, TeachKind would be honored to donate \$5,000 to Frazier Mountain High School to help transition to a fully plant-based agriculture program.** This shift would prevent the kind of suffering recently seen by ensuring that no animals are involved, while also giving students the opportunity to explore innovative, humane, and sustainable farming practices. These funds could strengthen your horticulture initiatives, support your greenhouse construction, or enhance other environmental science projects.

As Mia indicated, many young people are drawn to animal agriculture programs like FFA because they genuinely care about animals. However, it's critical to understand that the suffering Pancho experienced was not unlike what he would have endured at the end of the program. His slaying reminds us that it can be confusing and painful for students to reconcile their empathy with the traditional outcome of sending the animals they've bonded with to slaughter. By giving teens the opportunity to cultivate edible plants instead, you'll help them direct their compassion in a way that benefits their community, the planet, and their sense of responsibility.

[In alignment with your mission](#), shifting to animal-free programming would give students the chance to:

- Develop in-demand 21st-century career skills in sustainable plant agriculture.



- Explore science-based solutions to climate change, food insecurity, and environmental justice.
- Practice empathy and leadership, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to society.

The United Nations and leading environmental scientists agree that moving away from animal agriculture is critical for [protecting the planet's future](#). Some studies even show that raising animals for food produces more greenhouse gas emissions than all the world's transportation systems combined. Educating students about these realities helps them become informed, forward-thinking citizens ready to build a kinder and more sustainable world.

Frazier Mountain High School has a remarkable opportunity to honor Pancho's memory by teaching students to cultivate healthy fruits, vegetables, and crops—skills expected to grow in demand—and equipping them with the tools and motivation to build a better future for everyone. This shift would be compatible with FFA's Plant Systems programming, providing valuable instruction in hydroponics, agronomy, and agriscience research. [Farming communities](#) across the US are rethinking traditional agriculture, and by reimagining your program now, your school can lead the way in preparing students for future ethically and socially responsible food systems.

TeachKind would love to help your community begin this transition and to celebrate the compassion at the heart of your school. Please let us know if we can arrange a call to discuss next steps.

Thank you for your open-minded consideration of our offer and commitment to students' growth.

Warm regards,

Julie Everett

Writer and Engagement Coordinator

[TeachKind](#) | PETA's Humane Education Division

Cc: Lee Bizzini, Agriculture ([REDACTED])

