



# Our Hen House Podcast: Transcript for Episode 642, Interview with Danielle Hanosh

**Jasmin Singer:** Welcome to Our Hen House, Danielle!

**Danielle Hanosh:** Thank you so much for having me. I'm happy to be here.

**Jasmin:** I'm excited that you're here. When we first heard about the LEAP program, we knew we needed to find out more. And so that's how we ended up in touch with you. So thank you so much for all you're doing. Let's start out telling folks what the LEAP program stands for and who the program is for.

**Danielle:** Yeah, absolutely. So LEAP is an acronym that stands for leaders for ethics, animals and the planet. And it is offering the high school participants right now we're focused on high school age, a hands-on experience with farmed and domestic animals and humane education.

**Jasmin:** Wow. Okay. There's a lot to unpack there cause I still want to know everything.

So let's start. How long does the program last and what kind of work are the participants doing?

**Danielle:** So right now the pilot program is one semester long, but moving forward as we get into the regular year, it's going to follow a school year. So it will be a whole year long. Two semesters. And as far as the hands-on work that the students are doing, they are attending a monthly hands-on workshop at the sanctuary that is closest to them of our three participating sanctuaries right now. And they're doing everything from hands-on animal care. So for example, in March, we focused on chickens and health checks to building projects, to community service and interacting with the public at tours and volunteer days.

**Jasmin:** Wow. This is like everything that everyone has always told me they want to do at a sanctuary. I love it.

I'm curious. Do they get paid?

**Danielle:** They do get paid. So we offer a \$500 scholarship right now because it's just a semester long pilot program. But once we hit the 2022, 2023 school year, we will be offering a thousand dollars scholarship for each participant who completes the program.

**Jasmin:** Tell us who has been participating so far, are they already involved in animal rights and or environmentalism or are they complete newbies, maybe something in between.

**Danielle:** It's actually been a really good mix and it's been really interesting to see the variety of kids that we have signing up. So out of our three participating sanctuaries, we have several students who are already vegan and already big into animal rights and volunteering. All the way to other high school students who are officers in their local FFA or 4H and they are raising animals for animal ag and they heard about this program and wanted a different perspective on working with farmed animals. And so it's been really fun to see and there's a few kids in the middle as well but really fun to see the different groups of students who are interested.

**Jasmin:** Yeah, 4H definitely gives us a knee-jerk reaction. I'm sure it does for you too. So let's dig into that a little bit more. How does this compare to 4H obviously they don't have to send the animal to slaughter at the end, but what is like the full picture of difference between LEAP and 4H?

**Danielle:** We do tend to have that knee jerk reaction. And we've worked with some 4H students in the past. And I think that there's a lot of good qualities about those programs that we as animal advocates tend to overlook like the leadership training that they get, the public speaking training and really the animal care. A lot of 4H students are trained to take good care of the animals while they're in their care. They just then of course send them away to slaughter at the end. And so that is the most major difference is not only how we try to show the students that there's another way, there's another system besides the traditional animal agriculture system, as far as a way to interact with farmed animals and to care for them, but just giving them that opportunity to see the connection between things like animal agriculture and climate change and the other problems that arise from that has been one of the major differences and just letting them make their own conclusions about that after working in a sanctuary setting

**Jasmin:** And correct me if I'm wrong, but this whole idea came about originally because of a student who didn't want to slaughter the animal they had raised. Didn't it? Can you tell us about that story and like how one thing led to another?

**Danielle:** So we. Here at the sanctuary that I run Blackberry Creek, we had a student write us a letter a few years ago. It was back in, let me think. 2017 in the spring, her name was Audori and Audori was a freshman in high school, down in Orange County, down near LA.

And was put in a FFA class at her high school as an elective. She didn't choose it. She ended up in it, but she got excited when she found out they got to work with animals and she was getting a pig and she was thrilled about it. And she really had no idea about the end of the program and what would happen. And as she progressed through the class for the, it was a whole school year, she began to realize. What she was in for. And she had really bonded with her pig, Sebastian. And so she had reached out to a variety of sanctuaries and that's when we got her letter and she wanted to somehow save Sebastian from slaughter.

The problem was that because she was in a school run FFA class. The school technically owned Sebastian so different 4H and FFA programs work differently in that regard, but she had to raise the money to actually buy him from the school.

**Jasmin:** Wow.

**Danielle:** We don't buy animals obviously here as a sanctuary for various reasons. But we did guide her in how to set up a GoFundMe page and we did help her with who to send it to and how to advertise. And she raised the money to save Sebastian in 24 hours. So it was amazing. She told a very compelling story. So we offered to do the transport and to come down and she actually wanted to take him to fair because she had worked to train him so hard, which was something that we later learned, was actually fairly dangerous because if he would have won, he would have become property of the fair which none of us knew at the time. Luckily he did not win. So we drove down to Orange County. We got to spend some time with Audori and her mom Shaleese and they actually came and visited Sebastian that next summer and they're going to come again this summer. And that's the original animal who inspired the program.

**Jasmin:** Wow. That is so cool. I love the community component of that. Just like supporting her with the go-fund me and everything. I think that's really inspiring to people who are probably listening to this and maybe want to lend

their skills to some campaign or something. There is a place for everyone, and that is really beautiful ending. I'm glad. That he lost. I'm glad he's a loser.

**Danielle:** Me too. My husband actually made a short documentary film about it. That's on YouTube. If anybody's interested in seeing Audori and Sebastian, and it's called Audori's Courage and it's a short, like 15 minute film about that whole story and what happened and some interviews with some other FFA students, we met there who wish they had known about that other option.

**Jasmin:** Okay. We'll link to it in the show notes for this episode too because that I definitely want to see that. So this program is not just hands-on animal care. There is also a strong educational component. Can you tell us about that?

**Danielle:** So I was a former classroom educator. I taught middle school for 10 years and I really knew that we needed to have a solid curriculum going forward. The hands-on animal care part is great, but it can't be the only part of the program. And so we have been working with a variety of different existing curriculums and creating our own there's myself and another educator who are part of the founding committee of LEAP leaders. And so right now the kids are coming to a once a month evening virtual class. Since we only have three sanctuaries, we're actually able to all get on their live right now, which is really fun so the kids can meet each other from different parts of California. And we are talking about things like the emotional intelligence of farm animals. We're talking about climate change. We're talking about animal agriculture in all of its forms, the human rights aspects that go along with that. So there's a lot to cover and we're just starting to dip our toes in getting that whole curriculum ready. Right now we have our semesters worth and we're continuing to develop it for the year.

**Jasmin:** That's so cool. I also saw that one of the goals of the program is to culminate in a community based program. What are your ideas for that?

**Danielle:** So we have a few different ideas for that. And I think it's going to largely depend on each sanctuary and what their needs are in their community. Some of the things that the kids have expressed interest in doing are starting things like community gardens, because a lot of students who participate in traditional animal agriculture programs, they really love the idea of feeding the world and helping to end hunger. And we think that this is a great way for them to learn about the ways that promoting plant-based eating actually creates less food scarcity and for the world in general and on a local level, creating community gardens and food pantry programs that can help families that need assistance. So that's something that we've been talking a lot about. That's just one of the examples.

**Jasmin:** Wow. Okay. That's super cool. I love the hands-on. And I see that you have tried to design this to hit a lot of personal development outcomes for these students. Can you tell us what they get out of it that will help them in life? In addition to a part-time job.

**Danielle:** So the leadership component is really big for us and that's actually why it's in the title. We have leaders as the L and LEAP, and we want these students, not all of them will be interested so much in the animal rights component. Some of them might be, and some of them might be interested in the veterinary component and they like the animal care and they want to participate in ways to make veterinary medicine more accessible to these traditionally farmed animals. Some of them will want to go more into climate change and figuring out solutions for that as they move forward. A lot of the generation that's in high school right now is very much focused on climate solutions and sustainable farming, which in this case, needs to move away from animal agriculture in general as a whole.

And so we're really trying to equip them with the knowledge to make their own decisions about those things. By just giving them all the factual information, giving them the experience of learning the animals are individuals and hopefully developing in them, not just that leadership, but the sort of moral agency to make their own choices when it comes to those things as adults and besides leadership, we're also looking to instill in them a sense of responsibility. Obviously like caring for animals is a big responsibility. As we know, just with kids getting a pet at home and I think that, that transfers over into responsibility as a whole, for society, for the natural world and for wild animals as well, and habitat preservation, all the things that connect to that.

So we're looking big into leadership to responsibility, and I think really towards creating kids who become adults, who have. We want them to be thoughtful and we want them to be very deliberate about their choices. We don't want them to see these societal constructs as the only way and the only norm. We want them to question the societal constructs that we are all told are, normal and right and we want them to come up with those conclusions for themselves. So getting them to think different.

**Jasmin:** I'm very curious about your own journey here, that you came from a background in education and in teaching, and now you're plugging your skills into this, your other passion. Can you just talk a little bit about that? Is this ever a direction you thought you would go in?

**Danielle:** Not when I started teaching, I think. I was omnivore, growing up and I ate animals up until my late twenties. I'm 36 right now. And I think. There's so

much to say about that. So when I was a student at UC Davis and I was handed a pamphlet about the egg industry, when I was in college and I thought, oh, this is baloney. This is a bunch of propaganda. And I did some research because that's who I am. And I want to make sure I know all the facts and. I did a deep dive and found. I knew absolutely nothing about where my food came from. And so I started educating myself then, and as I went through my twenties and learned more and more, I became vegetarian and then eventually vegan. I was already teaching, for quite a few years at that time, I think I was in my fourth or fifth year of teaching when I went vegan. I had volunteered at Leilani farm sanctuary in Maui, on vacation with my husband and Laurelee, the founder there was extremely helpful and she does a lot with students and a lot with education and a light bulb went off for me that, I have a lot of students who come from abusive homes or, deal with neglect and deal with just different physical and emotional trauma and these animals that she was rescuing, almost all came from situations like that as well. And I thought what a neat thing it would be if I could somehow start a sanctuary where we live in California to pair these students with these animals and start a whole new kind of I don't want to say therapy program, but just a different experience for them to be able to maybe relate to another being when they have a hard time relating or opening up to humans.

**Jasmin:** That's so cool. I, so many of us look back at our childhoods and just, we have like that animal in my case, it was a cat and I'm not even sure I realized until I was an adult, the importance that cat played in my future animal activism, and just being able to connect with him. And for you to be able to be offering this like times a billion, given your sanctuary work to children, I'm given such hope for how that can help kids develop their compassion and develop their worldview earlier than you and I did because I know everyone listening to. Except for maybe the 0.0001% of people who are raised vegan, who are listening to this to have that feeling like, Ugh, why did it take me so long? So, I just, kids are growing up in a different time and age now. Thankfully it's where it is available to them where, it's not a pamphlet being handed to them like it was for us, which thank goodness that we were handed those pamphlets, but now there's billboards and there's sanctuaries and there's the internet and all that. Well, you grew up in the internet age. I didn't, but when I went vegan, It was the very beginning of the internet. So it was like, you know, PETA and that was it. That was all you had access to. And now there's so many other avenues where people can find and foster their compassion. So back to the LEAP program, I know it is the early days, but tell us how it is going so far.

**Danielle:** It's going really so far. I think that we've all been pleasantly surprised with how much the kids are just jumping feet first into it. We weren't sure, the aspect of the hands-on animal care can be hard for some students who have



never grown up around animals because it's dirty and it's smelly and they're out shoveling poop and doing health checks and things that aren't always glamorous, but they have been doing a really great job with showing up.

They've been very responsible and coming, they do some volunteer hours with us during the month as well. So it's been a really neat opportunity to see them. Try some things that are a little uncomfortable for them and get some new experiences. One thing I've also really enjoyed seeing is our veterinarian working with them.

So we've invited the students out a few times, not necessarily on their day when they're doing their hands-on workshop, but if we are having our large animal vet come out, she comes to us of course, to do a procedure. It's been great to have the kids come out and watch because it's a, hands-on learning experience for them.

She talks about what she's doing as she's doing it. And they've gotten to see some really neat things so far. Not all of them want to become veterinarians, but for those of them that do it's a really neat experience for them.

**Jasmin:** I've heard from other sanctuaries that the work with the veterinarians is interesting because a lot of the veterinarians are not used to pigs being teenagers or old, and that they've actually learned a lot from sanctuary people.

Can you speak to that a little bit? I'm definitely in the dark here because this is not my world at all, but I'm very interested in like how your sort of ordinary veterinarian reacts when connecting with a sanctuary that is allowing these animals to live out their full lives.

**Danielle:** Absolutely. That's something that we have been both pleasantly and unpleasantly surprised with at times is just the different mindsets of the veterinarians and their backgrounds.

We are super lucky to have had 2, 1, 1 animal, large animal veterinarian become one of our closest friends and another one who just came on board this last year. And. They're both extremely open to working with sanctuaries and just very open-minded about what they will do for these animals and learning, because like you said, they don't have a lot of experience for example, with pigs, working on pigs who are older than six months old in general, but when they're slaughtered for breeding sows, you know, it's a few years we have had not the best experiences with some of our hospitals around the area. And that has been a point of learning for us, a growth area that we are trying to really advocate and

push for a different mindset when it comes to treating sanctuary animals, because some of the university hospitals around have a very different definition of animal welfare and quality of life than sanctuaries do because they are trained and educated to get the animals they work with healthy enough to go back to the farm, to go to slaughter. And thinking about them, living with conditions like arthritis, which big pigs get. And when they grow to seven, 800 pounds, it's very unexplored in the world of medicine. They don't really have a lot of information because they really haven't been seeing those types of patients for a long time. And so we have been working on some cases, in fact, one with our pig Cromwell. Who we've actually taken to Indiana he's at Purdue university right now, because they are very open to learning and treating sanctuary animals with the same level of care and respect as dogs and cats.

So that's a lot of information, but I think that the kids are getting, in the LEAP program, they're getting a really well-rounded experience with that because we have some great large animal veterinarians who come to us, but then if the animals need to go to the hospital, it's a bit of a different story.

**Jasmin:** I know that farmed animals can be intimidating for folks who aren't used to them. Do the students have any trouble adjusting to the challenges they can pose?

**Danielle:** They haven't so far, in my experience. At our sanctuary, we actually ran a program before LEAP. That was the impetus for LEAP to get started.

And it was just at Blackberry Creek and I've had about 15 students go through that program. I'll tell you that the pigs are the most intimidating to most of the students, just because of their size. They're very large. So we have eight farm pigs who are all between about five and 800 pounds. We do safety training we talk about the inherent dangers of working with large animals in general, but I think the kids are very pleasantly surprised once they get to know the pigs that a simple belly rub turns them into a giant dog per se. So it's been really fun to see them. I think for the most part, teenagers are very open to new experiences, even more so than adults. And that's been an exciting thing to watch is them interacting with the animals.

**Jasmin:** Oh, I bet. I bet. I'm very curious what their dinner conversations are like that evening you must have a lot of parents who are like, Ugh, God, I love it. Where do these students come from? And what qualifications are you looking for?



**Danielle:** So we are really open as far as what qualifications we're looking for. We basically are drawing from, like I said before, a very broad group of students, so they don't have to be vegan. They don't even have to be vegetarian. In fact, we really like working with kids that have never, maybe thought about animals in a different way. So we are really looking for kids who want to, like I said before, jump in, feet first. And get the practical hands-on skills. They don't really need to come with any skills. We want them to understand that as the next generation of leaders, they have a responsibility to make a difference in their communities.

And so we want them to be interested and engaged in the program in whatever aspect they find the most fascinating and the most interesting to them, whether that's the animal care, the humane education, the climate change solutions, et cetera, the students that are joining, we hope that they love being outdoors because we're outside a lot. And that they're happy with the, both the virtual classroom education and the physical hands-on learning. And we want them to get involved to become part of our sanctuary communities. To connect with those animals. And then of course, they have to have some practical qualifications. They need to be available as far as when our programs are running, they do have some options when to attend their volunteer hours and things, they need to have reliable transportation. Some of the kids can't drive yet. And so it is imperative that the parents commit to bringing them out to the sanctuary a couple of times a month. And for right now, they have to live in Northern California just because that's where the participating sanctuaries are. But we hope to expand that soon.

**Jasmin:** Are you hoping that this is a model that will spread to other sanctuaries? Is that what I'm picking up?

**Danielle:** Yeah, absolutely. We actually have been having some discussions about that and some meetings we are going to be forming LEAP into its own nonprofit, because that way it will, yeah, it will have the potential to reach many more students. And inadvertently many more parents, you mentioned the dinnertime conversation and. Two of the students that I have actually were former students of mine when they were in seventh grade. And that's how they came to learn about the program. And it's also a lot of word of mouth and we advertise at local schools and local fairs, where the kids are doing FFA and 4H, but these two girls are twins, Leah and Kendall, and they actually went vegan after seeing a couple of documentaries a few years ago. And their parents are not vegan, but they're very open to it. And the girls have decided to start cooking dinner every night because they know if they cook dinner, their parents would eat it.

**Jasmin:** Awww. I love that, that's so cool.

**Danielle:** Really cool. So we're seeing changes, all the way up into the family and sparking some really good conversations.

**Jasmin:** So you've talked a bit about Blackberry Creek farm sanctuary, but I'd love to hear a little bit more about it. So, can you just tell us where you are and who lives there?

**Danielle:** So we are in Northern California. We're about halfway between Sacramento and Tahoe. If people are familiar with that area, we're in a tiny little railroad town called Colfax. And we have right now about 85 rescued animals on our property. We are lucky enough to be able to use our board members property as well here. Just she's about 20 minutes away to graze our large animals. So we have cows and they get to go to what we call cow camp every year. So they go over to our board members house and have about 20 acres of grass to graze for a few months over there. Besides the cows, we do have llamas. We have the big pigs. We don't have any potbellies, but we've got the big guys. We have chickens, turkeys, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, a Guinea fowl, two dogs, two cats and too many donkeys and a tortoise. And I think that's all,

**Jasmin:** Wow. What a beautiful family. I love it so much. I'm so much more interested in that than people who are like, oh, I have 13 grandchildren two... I'm like, yeah. Tell me about your animals. So you mentioned climate change a few times. How has climate change affected your operations, especially being located where you are. And what are your plans for the future to deal with the ongoing challenges?

**Danielle:** Yeah, that's a really good question, especially well-timed because, -we do live in the forest. We live in the foothills and I know that the other two sanctuaries that are involved with LEAP, which is Rancho Compassion and Jameson Humane. They also live down in foothills, but closer to the coast, but we are all in high fire danger. We actually have encountered a couple of different climate related problems at the sanctuary. One has been the drought. Obviously we are on. Luckily, we are on a very high producing well for the moment. So all of our water for the animals comes from our well, we also have a Creek that runs through the property, but starting last year, they actually closed off the outlet to the Creek for about five months during the hottest part of the year to conserve that water and send it down the valley for agricultural reasons.

So we lost quite a bit of our water, which has been difficult for our animals. Obviously the pigs and, animals like them that rely on the water to make mud in the summer have had a hard time and we've had to figure out some solutions. Our fire insurance has gone through the roof. It has more than tripled since we moved here eight years ago. So that's, it's starting to become unaffordable, which I know for a lot of. Even just families that don't have land for a lot of just regular homes in the foothills, that's been an issue. For us, we have the responsibility to care for this many animals to make sure they have a safe home. And so the biggest and scariest thing is we did actually have a fire very close to us last year, we had one start at the bear river campground, which is just about two miles away from us. And we evacuated with a huge amount of help from our volunteers and some other sanctuaries locally, we have a great community, a network of sanctuaries in Northern California that come together during emergencies like that. But we had to evacuate over 80 animals in three hours and the fire got to a half a mile from our house. One of our volunteers just down the street, lost her home. We are incredibly lucky that we did not, but just the logistics of roads being closed, trying to get, our emergency, we have an emergency plan. We have people with trucks and trailers, but they couldn't even get into the town because the road was shut down so quickly by authorities. So we have seriously thought about the future of the sanctuary, if we're even going to be able to stay here longterm with climate change, just because of the safety for the animals. And then after that, obviously the affordability.

**Jasmin:** Yeah. Wow. I can't even imagine what that must've been like. My frame of references that my wife and I were living in West Hollywood at the beginning of COVID and there were the fires going on, but then my neighborhood was like the kind of height of those riots. And so we had packed a getaway car. We have three dogs, one cat. We were like, what are we, how are we going to get these animals out? If we have to leave? Cause we had a getaway car packed. It was very intense at that moment. I'm sure. Remember. And anyway, I just think we had four animals. They're all tiny. And you're dealing with 80. Wow. That's so much to deal with. And I don't think it's what people think of when they have that instinct of I'm going to start a sanctuary. I think they see it as this like beautiful, like rolling Hills and like brushing the animals... I don't know. But that's, this is real.

**Danielle:** Very small part, but yes, enjoyable, but not the big picture. Yeah. We were lucky to have so much. And incredibly lucky that the fire eventually went up the canyon the other way from us, but you are correct. It is very scary.

**Jasmin:** So you mentioned animal agriculture. I, and I know that you, so you, it seems like you are in an area with a lot of animal agriculture. So can you speak about that? What are your relations like with the local community?

**Danielle:** So we are in Colfax. We are a little bit further removed from. For example, the dairy industry, because they are much more down on the coastal parts of California. But I will say that Rancho Compassion and Jameson Humane are much more in dairy land down there. We see a lot of the veal calves. We see a lot of, the homesteading backyard, farmer operations up where we live. We have a good relationship with the farmers in the community. We haven't had a lot of confrontation with them or anything like that. But one thing that we've learned and that I think Rancho has a really good handle on is that, we can do all the humane education we want and we can talk about veganism and we can invite the community on tours. This is people's livelihoods. And so yes, we have to change their minds and offer them new insights into farmed animals as individuals, but we also have to offer them another choice and another solution besides animal farming. And one thing I know that Rancho has done really well is of course, because Miyoko runs Rancho Compassion with her daughter Camila. They have started a program to help local dairy farmers to transition away from dairy and into other crops. And she is very well set up to do that because of course, she runs and nationally acclaimed business and she knows exactly what she's doing with production with the whole operation. And I think that. Programs like that are going to be essential for really bringing the community into bigger change, getting them to not only understand, like I said, the farmed animal aspect, but help them to transition away from animal agriculture and find money making something else. If you're going to make whatever it is that you're going to grow or you're going to produce it, it needs to be able to sustain you. And hopefully. We give them the tools to be able to do that.

**Jasmin:** Yeah, absolutely. I interviewed Miyoko about that for VegNews actually, if people are interested in hearing a little bit more about that transition, and I am very proud to be on the advisory board for Rancho Compassion, and I'm a big fan of what they're doing and what you're doing. Your sanctuary. And also just with the LEAP program as a whole, I feel like it's revolutionary. I'm so excited about everything you're talking about. So switching gears, can you tell us about *The Very Ugly Chicken*?

**Danielle:** Yes, absolutely. *The Very Ugly Chicken* is a children's book that I wrote. Like I said, I have an English degree and my background is in education. And so one way I really wanted to reach young people is through literature because that's a way that I was really inspired as a child and as an adult as well. So *The Very Ugly Chicken* is a story based on one of our actual sanctuary residents named Judy and Judy was a cross breed 10. So talking about the local farm operations up here and some of the problems inherent there. We have some chicken breeders up near us who are all about incubating and hatching their own eggs to get, fancy chickens and chickens of different colors and all the rest. And

so they often get disabled babies from some of the experiments with incubation and mixing different genetics. And. The cross beaks are ones that I have a special place in my heart cause they have to be hand-fed for their entire lives. If you could picture a chicken whose normal beak works like a pair of tweezers to pick up seeds and grains. And then if you move those tweezers at an angle where they are almost horizontal or criss cross, like an X, they have an awfully difficult time eating. And so that was Judy. And so Judy lived with us for about three years and we hand fed her every single day. She eventually passed away from some complications with that. But she was really inspiring to a lot of people because she had this disability, this physical disability, but she never let it slow her down. And she was just the funniest, goofiest chicken. She had a crazy personality. We called her Judy Hei Hei, if any of you have seen Moana. Because she often was very silly. But she was great when we would talk to adults and students about seeing animals in a different way. And. Also when we would talk about disabilities. So we did some field trips for kids with disabilities. We did a couple of assemblies, just talking about how being different is not a bad thing. And the book that we wrote that I wrote and my board member, actually, no, my board member illustrated another one. This one was illustrated by a friend Taylor Gmahling and it tells the story of Judy saving the day for other animals. And so the message of the story is not only to treat others with respect and kindness and celebrate differences, but there's also a vegan message in there because the animals go missing at the farm. And Judy is the only one that's always with the little girl who owns the animals because she has to be hand-fed all day. So she gets to go everywhere. So she finds out the animals have gone to fair and are going to be sold. And she gets this great idea that she's going to be the one to save them because everybody's always making fun of her and she wants to be helpful and seen in a better light and she enters the animals in a dance competition at the fair, instead of the animal agriculture competition. And she teaches them all the dance moves and they win first place and all the animals end up doing these silly dances. So kids really like the illustrations and the girl, the little girl with the prize money decides to open a sanctuary and save all the animals at the end, instead of

**Jasmin:** I love it! That is so cool. Oh my God. I'm going to get a copy. That is so fun. I love it so much. So Danielle, thank you so much. If you could. Tell our listeners, how they can learn more about LEAP, get involved, learn more about the Blackberry Creek Farm Sanctuary as well as *The Very Ugly Chicken*. I would appreciate it. Give us the 4 1 1.

**Danielle:** Absolutely. So I'm going to start with LEAP. So LEAP has its own website. It is [leapforanimals.org](http://leapforanimals.org), and people can go there to check out the three participating sanctuaries right now. The scholarship program is on there. If people want to donate to a scholarship for the students or to the program in

general. We're eventually going to, of course, have to hire staff and need some investors to really get this off the ground and make it a nationally recognized program that other sanctuaries can participate in. As far as Blackberry Creek goes, we are at [blackberrycreek.org](http://blackberrycreek.org) and there are lots of different links on there as far as our programs go and the books are on there as well. And the books can also be found on Amazon, *The Very Ugly Chicken*, and I've also written two other books. The one that's probably the most popular is called *The Other Side* and it deals with animal grief and loss in a picture book with a nice poem in there. And I think it's been really helpful for a lot of adults, as well as children to, as we all know, that have animals and that care for animals, the constant loss, especially at a rescue who, we care for sick and disabled and special needs animals can be really difficult mentally and emotionally on, on the caretakers and our volunteers. And so *The Other Side* was written to. Help people get through those times and just recognize the special legacy that those animals leave. And those are all Amazon and our website.

**Jasmin:** Amazing. Thank you so much. I would love it if you'd stick on the line for a little bit, so I could chat with you for a flock. Maybe I'll ask you a couple of questions about the other side, cause I am intrigued. I want to learn more. Thank you. And thank you so much for shedding light on all that you're doing. It's all very inspiring and I'm grateful that I got a chance to meet you. So thanks for spending time with us today on Our Hen House.

**Danielle:** Thank you so much. It's an honor to be here and to speak on behalf of the animals.

**\*Listen to the full interview on Episode 642 of the Our Hen House podcast, available wherever podcasts stream or at [www.ourhenhouse.org](http://www.ourhenhouse.org)**