

Hernando County Cattlemen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen



HCCW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*Hernando County Cattlemen
2025-2026*



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HCCW Scholarship Application Form

The Scholarship Application provides essential information about you, helping us understand your aspirations, goals, and plans for achieving them using these funds.

The DUE DATE is April 1 or before.

Applications may be turned in from March 23 through April 1, 2026.

General Application Procedures and Directions

1. The application is to be **hand-delivered in a sealed envelope** to the Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau office at 617 Lamar Street, Brooksville, FL, on or before **April 1**.
2. You are to determine your eligibility based on the listed criteria.
3. The scholarship forms are **only accepted in print form**. Digital work is to be converted.
4. An applicant may receive the scholarship more than once.
5. A child of an active HCCW member receives five bonus points. An active member is defined as someone who has a paid HCCW membership for the entire HCCW calendar year, from September through May preceding their child's scholarship application, as well as for the current year of application.
6. Two recommendation letters, one from a person in agriculture, are to be included.
7. A one-page resume is to be included, highlighting your various non-agricultural and agricultural activities, achievements, community service, and positions held.
8. It is the **applicant's responsibility** to verify that HCCW received the application.
9. More information on General Procedures and Directions is in the Appendix.

General Directions for Completing the Form and Answering the Questions

1. **Do not include your or your parent/guardian's names** in your answers, as this is a blind review judging process ensuring a fair and impartial evaluation for you and others.
2. All Sections are to be completed with all the questions answered and the essay written.
3. In your responses, you are to use complete sentences, correct grammar, follow directions, be age-appropriate, and be neat.
4. Your responses to the *Section 2: Short Answer Questions* and *Section 3: Scholarship Essay* prompt will be evaluated based on their clarity, originality, appropriateness to the question, and relevance to the agricultural industry.
5. When directions specify **typed answers**, the format is a 12-point font, with double-spaced lines and numbered pages on separate paper from the application form.
6. Your research may use artificial intelligence (AI). However, all your responses should reflect your own thoughts and use your own wording regarding the AI research information used, citing it adequately as needed.
7. AI-generated answers and other plagiarized materials can result in point deductions, sections being excluded, or the applicant's disqualification.
8. The forms must be submitted in print format. Digital files are not acceptable.
9. Your hand-delivered application must **include the original of your handwritten Sections 1 and 4, along with your printed copy of your typed answers to Sections 2 and 3, your resume, and your recommendation letters.**



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Section 1: Applicant Information (Required)

Directions: Please write in the requested information in the space provided.

Name of Youth: _____

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone used for contact - **required:** _____

Is it okay to leave your messages on your voicemail? _____

The email used for contact - **required:** _____

Is your parent or guardian a current HCCW member? _____ Yes _____ No

Was your parent/guardian a member of HCCW last year? _____ Yes _____ No

Parent Name _____

Check if you are or have been a member of any of these groups:

___ 4-H ___ FFA ___ Jr. Cattlemen ___ Other Agricultural Club _____

Name of Current School, Home School, or Post-Secondary School You Are Attending:

Grade or Level: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Name of Post Secondary School Planned for Enrollment: _____

Post Secondary School Enrollment Hours Planned: ___ **Full Time** or ___ **Part Time**

Post Secondary School Enrollment Term Planned: ___ Summer ___ Fall ___ Winter

Are you a **prior recipient** of the HCCW Scholarship? ___ Yes ___ No

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

*** Parent or Guardian Signature:** _____ Date: _____

** Signature is required, no matter the student's age, unless legally declared independent.*



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Section 1 Continued: Qualifications and Eligibility Information (Required)

Qualifications:

An eligible student is 21 years old or younger by May 1 of the current year, meets one of the eligibility criteria below, and is planning to enroll or is enrolled in post-secondary schooling or training at a college, vocational, technical, or trade institute to attain an agricultural-related degree or certificate. The applicant plans a future career in farming and/or ranching, agribusiness, or related supporting business sectors.

My Qualifications:

Directions: Please place an "X" if you meet this qualification.

• **I am:**

_____ 21 years old or younger as of May 1 of the current year.

Directions: Please place an "X" beside your enrollment qualifications.

• **I plan** to attain an agricultural degree or certificate, or a related one by enrolling in or am currently enrolled in:

_____ a post-secondary school (college or university, _____ training at a college, _____ a vocational, _____ a technical, or _____ a trade institute.

• **I plan to enroll in the:**

___ summer term/session of 2025, ___ fall term/session of 202, or ___ winter term/session of 2025-2026.

Directions:

Please place an "X" to the left of your future intended career and briefly note the type.

• **My future career is in:**

• farming _____ in this type of farming _____.

• ranching _____ in this type of ranching _____.

• agribusiness _____ in this type of agribusiness _____.

• a related supporting business _____ in this type of related supporting business _____.

My Eligibility Criteria

Directions: Please place an "X" in the blank for the eligibility criterion that applies to you.

• **I am:**

_____ A current year graduating senior of a Hernando County public, charter, private school, or homeschooler of a Hernando County resident.

_____ A current-year graduating senior of another County's public, charter, private, or homeschooler whose parent is an active HCCW member, or the student is active in a Hernando County agricultural-related club.

_____ A prior graduate of a Hernando County public, charter, private school, or homeschooler of a Hernando County resident.

_____ A prior Hernando County school or homeschool graduate who has completed a one-year gap experience from my graduation date before enrolling in post-secondary schooling.



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HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 2: Short Answer Questions (55 points)

Directions:

1. You are to answer each question in at least 15 words and at most 75 on separate typed papers or in digital files to be converted to print for submission. If you are under or over the word limit, then **three (3) points will be deducted for that question.**
2. Any digital files **will have to be converted** to a print copy for submission.
3. Label your typed separate paper “*Section 2: Short Answer Questions.*”
Also, copy and number each of the subheadings, such as Section 2, Part A: Personal Information and actual Short Answer Questions.
Number the pages and attach your printed pages to Section 1 of the application.

Section 2 Part A: Personal Information (15 Points)

1. Describe two ways you plan to make a positive, meaningful contribution to the field of agriculture after completing your post-secondary work. (5 points)
2. How would you give back to agriculture in your hometown area? (10 points)

Section 2 Part B: Agricultural Knowledge (40 Points)

1. What are two (2) changes in consumer demand affecting ranching? (10 points)
2. What is one (1) way that technology can improve ranch efficiency? (5 points)
3. Give an example of how you have had some experience with technology improving your related projects or farm/ranch activities. (5 points)
4. Describe one environmental issue for ranchers and two (2) ways to fix it. (5 points)
5. How can social media platforms promote agricultural awareness? (5 points)
6. What are two (2) negative impacts of farming and/or ranching? (5 points)
7. Describe a way that you think one of the negative impacts can be improved. (5 points)



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Section 3: Scholarship Essay (45 points)

Directions:

You are to prepare a **2 to 4-page typed essay** on separate papers on the Essay Prompt. Digital files must be changed into a print format for attaching to your application's submission.

If your answers exceed or fall short of the 2-4 typed page limits, then **three points will be deducted**.

For the **Topic Points** listed below, the judges will rate how you connect each to your main essay idea and opinion. **Three (3) points will be deducted for each Topic Point omitted**.

On your separate typed paper, label it with the heading "**Section 3 Essay**," refer to the Topic Points in some way, number the pages, and attach your printed pages to the other sections for your application to be hand-delivered.

Reminder: Digital applications are not accepted; only printed copies are.

Section 3: Essay (45 points)

Essay Prompt:

Why are you planning a career in agriculture or a related agri-business?

Topic Points:

1. What career are you pursuing in agriculture or a related agri-business? (5 points)
2. How does your major or field of study support your success in that field? (5 points)
3. Describe how your experiences have shaped your career goals and dreams. (10 points)
4. Discuss your greatest challenge and biggest reward from your experiences with an agriculture project and how that might affect your educational plans. (10 points)
5. What do you think is the most crucial role of the agricultural industry? (5 points)
6. Describe the agricultural work you specifically plan to do after you finish your post-secondary studies. (5 points)
7. Highlight what winning this scholarship would mean to you. (5 points)



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HCCW Scholarship Application Form

HCCW Scholarship Application Certification

Section 4: Certification Directions

- Sign this Certification form and write the date.
- You **must** include the original Certification in your application packet following the Section 3 papers.
- Additionally, please enclose your resume and two letters of recommendation after the Certification.

SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION FORM

APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION

By completing this application and signing below, I certify that all information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree to all terms and conditions if I am selected as the scholarship recipient.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

If an applicant is a minor,
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

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HCCW Scholarship Application Form



APPENDIX
HCCW Scholarship Application Form:
Detailed Procedures and Directions

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HCCW Assurances

1. Each **eligible** entry is rated using a blind review judging process, ensuring a fair and impartial quality assessment.
2. The names are blacked out on the judge's materials. This *anonymous* review process removes bias and ensures that each application is evaluated on merit and fairness.
3. The judging session occurs in closed sessions to ensure fairness and confidentiality. Only the Judges and, if appointed, a neutral party, the Independent Observer, can be present in the room. All discussions during the process are confidential.
4. Tiebreakers will be determined in the following order: 1) the Section 3 Scholarship Essay score, 2) the Section 2 Part B score, and then the activities on the resume.
5. The HCCW Scholarship Chair will email the applicants to notify them that the application has been received on or before April 10.
6. The Scholarship Chair will notify applicants if they win on or before April 30.

Scholarship Winner's Responsibilities

1. The winner must attend HCCW's annual awards meeting in May, either in person or virtually, to introduce themselves and briefly explain their plans or appeal the requirement.
2. Tuition funds are released directly to the institution once the recipient provides the Scholarship Chair with proof of acceptance, a class schedule, and the tuition bill.
3. The winner must inform HCCW of their intended enrollment term and enroll by the intended term to keep the scholarship or request an extension through an appeal.
4. The winner must claim the funds before their intended enrollment term or appeal a change; otherwise, the funds will be rolled over to next year's scholarship competition.
5. Funds exceeding the first term's tuition for up to three subsequent terms will be kept for their future tuition, or the rule may be appealed. Each disbursement follows the initial procedures.
6. After the scholarship-funded term, the recipient must email the Chair within six weeks a summary of their experiences and learning about agriculture. This way provides future access to excess funds for future tuition and to fulfill their responsibilities, or to appeal the rule.
7. The recipient must share, within six weeks of an HCCW-funded term, a copy of a current official grade report or transcript, preferably by email to the Chair, to allow the future release of excess funds for tuition and to fulfill their responsibilities.