



## Hernando County Cattlemen Information on the Beef Project Grant Application

**Purpose:** The Hernando County Cattlemen Organization (HCCW) is dedicated to promoting the beef industry and supporting our community's youth in agriculture. The Beef Project Grant provides the opportunity for the HCCW to support Hernando County youth in learning specifically about the beef industry, fostering their interest and knowledge in this field, and encouraging active participation.

**What:** The HCCW is excited to support three of our County's youth in expanding their beef projects or starting their beef experiences.

- This grant can be used for a breeding program or market show project.
- A \$500.00 grant per year is available for one junior (ages 8-10), one intermediate (ages 11-13), and one senior (ages 14-18) project. A graduating senior is not eligible.
- **The DUE DATE is April 1 of the current year**, and funding is available in May.
- The form and more information are available at [hernandocountycattlemen.com](http://hernandocountycattlemen.com)

**Who Qualifies:** A youth aged 8 to 18, not a current year graduate, is eligible if attending a:

- Hernando County public, charter, private school, or is a homeschooler of a Hernando County resident.
- Public, charter, private school, or homeschooler in another County whose parent is an active HCCW member or the student is active in a Hernando County agricultural club.

### HCCW Beef Grant Procedures

#### Applicant's General Instructions

1. The **application is to be emailed** to [hernandocountycattlemen@gmail.com](mailto:hernandocountycattlemen@gmail.com), preferably, or hand delivered to an active HCCW member by **April 1 of the current year**.
2. Each entry is assessed using a **"blind review judging" process** to ensure a fair and impartial quality assessment. The process means the applicant's name is kept anonymous when judged by blocking out any identifying data on the materials. In Sections 2 and 3, **do not include your or your parent/guardian's names** in your answers because of the blind review process.
3. You are to **handwrite** the application and follow the directions for each section.
4. Your research may use artificial intelligence (AI). All responses are to reflect your original thoughts unless properly cited. Plagiarized and AI-generated answers can lead to point deductions, sections being excluded, or applicant disqualification.
5. You are to keep this Information Sheet for your files and reference.

#### Beef Grant-Winner's Responsibilities

1. The Beef Grant winners must attend the HCCW May meeting in person or virtually for an awards presentation, introduce themselves, and briefly explain their plans.
2. Winners are to email the Beef Grant Chair an end-of-year project summary.

#### HCCW Assurances

1. The blind review process ensures that each student's judging is fair, eliminating bias.
2. The **judging activity** occurs in closed sessions, ensuring fairness. Only the Judges and the Independent Observer, a neutral party not involved in the selection process, can be present. All discussions during the process are confidential.
3. **Tiebreakers** occur in this order: 1) the Section 3 Beef Grant Essay score, 2) the Section 2 Part A Beef Project score, and 3) active participation in 4-H, FFA, or an ag-related club.
4. The student is responsible for verifying that the application was received. The Grant Chair will email receipt notification by April 10 and notify winners by April 30.