Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen and Stable Faith Cowboy Church

Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man. ~~ George Washinton.

HCCW Scholarship Information

What:

The Hernando County Cattlewomen Organization (HCCW), in partnership with the Hernando County Cattlemen (HCCA) and Stable Faith Cowboy Church (SFCC), is offering a single **$4000.00** <u>tuition-based</u> scholarship. This scholarship reaffirms our belief in the potential of our youth and our commitment to supporting their educational journey in the beef industry or the broader field of agriculture.

Application Date and Information:

DUE DATE is <u>April 1 of the current year</u>.
Specific information and the form are on the website
hernandocountycattlewomen.com
Our email is: *hernandocountycattlewomen@gmail.com*

Who Qualifies:

An eligible student <u>is 21 years or younger</u> by May 1 of the current year, <u>meets one of the criteria below</u>, and <u>is planning to enroll or is enrolled</u> 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 <u>future career in farming and/or ranching, agribusiness, or related supporting business</u> sectors. Applicants <u>are not required</u> to have a letter of acceptance to the post-secondary institute or school <u>to apply</u>. An applicant <u>may receive the scholarship more than once</u>.

Criteria for Eligibility:

- 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 <u>another County's</u> 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 from their graduation date.

HCCW Scholarship Procedures

Applicant's General Instructions

1. The application is to be **emailed to** _hernandocountycattlewomen@gmail.com,_ preferably, or hand delivered to an active HCCW member by **April 1 of the current year.**

2. Determine your eligibility based on the criteria listed. An applicant may receive the scholarship more than once. A child of an active HCCW member gets five bonus points.

3. Two recommendation letters, one from a person in agriculture, are to be included.

4. You are to include a one-page resume highlighting your various non-agricultural and agricultural activities, achievements, community service, and positions held.

HCCW Assurances

1. A blind review judging process ensures a fair and impartial quality assessment. Names are blocked out on any materials being judged. This _anonymous_ review process eliminates bias and ensures that each application is evaluated on merit and fairness.

2. The judging session occurs in closed sessions to ensure fairness. Only the Judges and the Independent Observer, a neutral party not involved in the selection process, can be present in the room. All discussions during the process are confidential.

3. Tiebreakers will be determined in the following order: 1) the Section 3 Scholarship Essay score, 2) the Section 2 Part B score, and 3) active in 4-H, FFA, or agricultural club.

4. It is the **applicant's responsibility** to verify that HCCW received the application. The HCCW Scholarship Chair will email the _application received notification_ by April 10. The Scholarship Chair will notify applicants if they win by April 30 of the current year.

Scholarship Winner's Responsibilities

1. The scholarship winner must attend the HCCW May meeting in person or virtually for an awards presentation, introduce themselves, and briefly explain their plans.

2. The recipient is to inform HCCW of the intended enrollment term. Tuition funds are **released directly to the institution after the recipient gives** the Scholarship Chair proof of their acceptance, class schedule, and tuition bill.

3. HCCW will hold any excess funds over the current term's tuition for 3 terms for the winner's future tuition. The release of these funds follows the initial procedures used.

4. The winner must claim the funds before their stated intended enrollment term starts, or the funds will be rolled over for the following year's scholarship competition.

5. After the HCCW scholarship-funded term, the recipient must email the Scholarship Chair within 6 weeks a summary of their experiences and learning about agriculture.

6. The recipient is to share within 6 weeks for any HCCW-funded term a copy of the official term's grade report or current term transcript with the Scholarship Chair by email.

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

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

General Directions: __Due Date is April 1__. When submitting a digital application by email or in person, you must include scanned, etc. **copies of your handwritten Sections 1 and 4, along with your recommendation letters and resume,** and include **files** for your typed answers for Sections 2 and 3. A hand-delivered **printed application** should have attached separate pages organized in order by sections, recommendation letters, and resume.

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 voicemail ok? _____

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

Is your parent/guardian an active HCCW member? ___ Yes ___ No – 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 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**

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.

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 2: Scholarship Application Short Answer Questions   (55 points)

Directions:

- You are to answer each question.

- **Do not include your or your parent/guardian's names** in your answers, as this is a "blind review judging" process to ensure a fair and impartial evaluation for you.

- Type your answers in at least 15 words and at most 50 in 12-point font, with double-spaced lines on separate paper with page numbers.

- Label your separate paper titled "Section 2: Scholarship Application Questions." Copy and number each Short Answer Question on numbered pages and attach your Section 2 pages to the application. Or, for a digital one, label and organize your files similarly.

- You earn points by answering the questions with relevant content, using complete sentences, correct grammar, following directions, and neatness.

- 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.

- When emailing your scholarship packet, the typed answers for Sections 2 and 3 can be in the same digital file in order labeled "Sections." A hand-delivered printed one is to have attached in order the separate answer pages, resume, and recommendations.
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Section 2 Part A: Personal Information   *(15 Points)*

1. Highlight some awards, honors, or special recognitions you have received and why those are important to this application.   (5 points)

2. How do you see yourself making a positive, meaningful contribution to agriculture after completing your post-secondary work?   (5 points)

3. How would you give back to agriculture in your hometown area?   (5 points)

Section 2 Part B: Agricultural Knowledge   **(40 points)**

1. Describe two of the biggest challenges a Florida farmer or rancher faces.   **(**10 points)

2. How can technologies improve farm or ranch efficiency and productivity? (5 points)

3. What are 2 examples of environmental issues for farmers and/or ranchers? (5 Points)

4. How can social media platforms promote agricultural awareness?   (5 points)

5. What does sustainable farming and/or ranching mean to you?   (5 points)

6. What are the negative impacts of farming and/or ranching?   (10 points)

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 3: Scholarship Essay   (45 points)
Directions:

- **Compose a 2 to 4-page essay** explaining *why you are pursuing a career in agriculture*. **Discuss every** "*Category*" listed below in any order and **relate them to your overall thoughts** when answering the essay's prompt. It is important to include and refer to each "*Category*" as the judges will rate how well you connect these areas to your **overall** ideas, beliefs, and opinions in your essay.

- Please **do not include your or your parent/guardian's names** in your essay, as this is a "blind review" judging process to ensure fairness for each applicant.

- Your response to this essay prompt will be evaluated based on its clarity, originality, and relevance to the agricultural industry. In answering the prompt, you also earn points using correct grammar, complete sentences, age-appropriate writing, following directions, and neatness.

- Type your answer in 12-point font, with double-spaced lines, on separate paper of at least 2 and at most 4 pages. Label the papers with the heading "Section 3 Essay," number the pages, and attach them to the application or in files for a digital submission.

- 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.

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Section 3 Essay Prompt   (45 points)
Why are you pursuing a career in agriculture?

Categories:

1. State what area of agriculture and career you plan to study and explain why.   (5 *points)*

2. Share 3 - 5 reasons why the agricultural industry is essential to you.   (5 *points)*

3. Explain how your planned major or field of study relates to your future career. (5 *points)*

4. Describe how your experiences shaped your career goals and aspirations.   (*10 points*)

5. Relate how your experiences shaped your personal goals and aspirations.   (5 *points*)

6. Discuss your greatest challenge and biggest reward from your experience with an agriculture project and how that might affect your educational plans. (5 *points)*

7. Share how your plans involve the promotion of agriculture.   (5 *points*)

8. Describe why you are seeking an agricultural scholarship.   (5 *points)*

9. Highlight what winning this scholarship would mean to you.   (5 *points)*

HCCW Scholarship Application Certification

Section 4: Certification
Directions:
- <u>Sign this form</u> and write in the <u>date</u>.

- If you are <u>emailing</u> your scholarship packet, you **must** include a <u>copy</u> of this Certification as <u>a separate file labeled "Certification</u>."

- If you hand-deliver a printed scholarship packet, the original Certification page should be included following Section 3. Your resume and recommendation letters should then be enclosed after the Certification.

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 if I am selected as the scholarship recipient.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

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

Date: _____