



Beef Project Grant

APPLICATION FORM

for

Intermediate (Ages 11-13) and Senior (14-18)

The Beef Project Grant promotes the beef industry by supporting youth in agriculture. The Hernando County Cattlemen (HCCW) grants support three youth beef projects, with each project receiving \$500. The application outlines the project's goals, implementation plans, the use of funds, and the applicant's information.

*Hernando County Cattlemen
2026-2027*



Hernando County Cattlemen Beef Project Grant Application Form

Purpose

The Beef Project Grant promotes the beef industry by supporting youth in agriculture. The Hernando County Cattlemen (HCCW) grants support three youth beef projects, with each project receiving \$500. The application outlines the project's goals, implementation plans, the use of funds, the applicant's knowledge, and their information.

Overall Application Procedures

Due Date: The application deadline is on or before February 1.

Who Qualifies:

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

1. Hernando County public, charter, private school, or is a County homeschooler.
2. Public, charter, private school, or is a homeschooler in another County whose parent is an active HCCW member, or the student is active in a Hernando County ag-related club.

What:

1. This grant can be used for a breeding program or market show project.
2. There is one grant for each of the age levels: junior (ages 8 -10), intermediate (ages 11-13), and senior (ages 14 -18).
3. A graduating senior is not eligible to receive the grant.

Procedures:

1. By February 1 of the application year, the application is to be **hand-delivered in a sealed envelope, not put in the dropbox**, to the Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau office at 617 Lamar Street, Brooksville. At the time of submission, the delivery date and time will be recorded on the "received log form." The date and time of receipt can also be recorded on the application cover or the first page.
2. Each **eligible entry** is rated using a **blind review judging process**, ensuring a fair and impartial quality assessment. This process involves keeping the applicant's name anonymous by blacking out any identifying information in the judges' materials.
3. The judging session is a closed session to ensure fairness and confidentiality. Only the Judges and an Independent Observer, if appointed, may be present during the process. All discussions during the process are confidential.
4. Section 1, which includes the applicant's identifying data, is used to determine eligibility, collect the necessary information, and, if needed, serve as a tiebreaker. It is shared with the judges after the winner is selected.
5. An application score must be at least 70% of the total points to qualify for the grant.
6. **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.
7. The submitted application is to be handwritten or a copy of the handwritten one, not a digital one. The application packet includes all sections 1, 2, and 3 papers, in order.
8. The Winners will be notified by the Beef Grant Chair on or before March 15.



Hernando County Cattlewomen
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Beef Grant Applicant and Winner Responsibilities

1. You are to determine which level of Beef Grant you are eligible for based on the criteria.
2. A properly completed application must be turned in on or before February 1.
3. The winners are to attend the HCCW's annual awards meeting in May, either in person or virtually, to introduce themselves and briefly explain their project plans.
4. Winners are to email the Beef Grant Chair **an end-of-year project summary.**

General Directions for Completing the Application Form and Its Questions

1. The application must be **handwritten** according to the directions.
2. All Sections are to be completed with all the questions answered and the essay written.
3. In Sections 2 and 3, **do not include your or your parent/guardian's name(s)** in your answers, as this "blind review judging" is used to ensure a fair and impartial evaluation.
4. The answers to Sections 2 and 3 are to be **written on separate papers** with numbered pages. Each question, including its number, should be copied onto a separate page and then **attached** to Section 1 of the printed application. Your digital version must be converted to a printed one for hand-delivery submission.
5. Your response to each question will be evaluated on its clarity, originality, and relevance to agriculture.
6. The quality of your answers is also judged by your use of correct grammar, complete sentences, age-appropriate writing, following directions, and neatness.
7. Your research may use artificial intelligence (AI). However, all your responses should be your original thoughts and wording on the AI research information, and they should be cited appropriately as needed. Plagiarized and AI-generated answers can result in point deductions, exclusion of sections with point loss, or disqualification of the applicant.



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Section 1: Applicant Information (Required)

Directions

Please ***handwrite all*** requested information *in the space provided*.

Name of Youth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Information – **Required:** Phone _____

email _____

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

Check with an **“X”**

Is your parent/guardian an active HCCW member? ____ Yes ____ No

Name(s) _____

Check with an **“X”** your Beef Grant Project Level and Type of Beef Project.

____ Junior (Ages: 8-10) ____ Intermediate (Ages: 11-13) ____ Senior (Ages: 14-18)

Type of Beef Project: ____ **Market/Show Project** or ____ **Breeding Program**

Check with an **“X”** each group you are or have been a member:

____ 4-H ____ FFA ____ Jr. Cattlemen ____ Other Agricultural Club

School Name: _____ Grade: ____ Birthdate: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

* Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

* Parent or Guardian signature is required, no matter the student's age, unless legally declared independent.



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Section 2: Beef Project Questions

(50 Total Points)

Directions

- You must **handwrite** on separate paper your answer to each question in at **least 15 words and at most 75**.
- If you are under or over the word limit on a question, then **three (3) points will be deducted for that question**.
- On **your separate answer papers, you are to label** them with the heading **“Section 2: Beef Project Questions.”** Also, you are to copy each question with its number and number your pages.
- The original or a print copy of your Section 2 answers is to be attached to your Section 1 form for submission of your application. **Digital applications are not accepted.**
- Reminder: Please **do not include your or your parent/guardian’s name(s)** in your answers, as this is a “blind review” judging process to ensure fairness for each one.

Part A: Beef Project Questions

(35 Points)

- Describe your proposed Beef Grant project and its purpose. (10 points)
- Share an overview of the activities you plan to use to achieve your purpose. (10 points)
- In some way, outline your projected timeline labeled **“Question 2: Timeline,”** and *include* major activities. (5 points)
- How will you use the grant’s funds, such as buying livestock, pens, etc.? (5 points)
- Explain why your beef project is important to you. (5 points)

Part B: Agricultural Experiences

(15 Points)

- What livestock shows, clinics, and/or related activities or projects do you plan to participate in this year? (5 points)
- Please list 2-3 Junior Florida Cattlemen’s Association (JFCA), 4-H, and FFA projects or related experiences you have participated in and the years you were in each. (5 points)
- Describe two (2) important ideas or actions you learned from your JFCA, 4-H, FFA activities or related experiences. (5 points)



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Section 3: Beef Project Essay

(50 points)

Directions

- a) **Handwrite a 1 ½ to 2-page essay** on separate paper expressing your opinion on the **Essay Prompt: *Why do you think it is important to raise beef?***
- b) If you are under or over the page limit, then **three (3) points** will be **deducted**.
- c) In writing your essay, each Topic Point listed below is to be included. **Three (3) points will be deducted for each Topic Point not written about.**
- d) On your separate answer papers, (1) **label your page with the heading “Section 3 Essay,”** (2) write out the prompt, (3) number the pages, and (4) discuss the Topic Points in some way.
- e) Attach your original or a printed copy of your Section 3 pages to your Section 1 and 2 answer papers.
- f) Reminder: 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.

Essay Prompt:
Why do you think it is important to raise beef?

Topic Points

1. Share 2 reasons you think the beef industry is important. (20 points)
2. What is a challenge you think a rancher has in raising beef? (10 points)
3. Describe challenges you might face in raising your project animal. (20 points)