

Hernando County Cattlemen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen



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.

*Hernando County Cattlemen
2026-2027*



**Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen**

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

General Information: Qualifications and Eligibility Information:

An eligible student is 21 years old or younger by May 1 of the application 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 career in farming and/or ranching, agribusiness, or supporting business.

General Application Procedures and Directions

- 1. The DUE DATE is on or before April 1.**
2. The application is to be **hand-delivered in a sealed envelope, not put in the drop box**, to the Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau office at 617 Lamar Street, Brooksville, **by April 1**. At the time of submission, the delivery date and time will be recorded on the “received log form” and may also be written on the application cover or on the first page.
3. In Section 1 Part B, you use the criteria listed to determine your eligibility.
4. The scholarship forms are only accepted in **print form**. Digital work is to be converted.
5. An applicant may receive the scholarship more than once.
6. A child of an active HCCW member receives five bonus points. An active member is defined as someone who has paid HCCW membership dues for the entire HCCW calendar year, from September through May preceding their child's scholarship application, and for the current application year.
7. Two recommendation letters are required, one from a person in agriculture.
8. A one-page resume is required, highlighting your non-agricultural and agricultural activities, achievements, community service, and positions held.
8. The applicant is to follow the directions for the short answer questions and the essay.
9. **Note:** A scholarship recipient elected as a State Officer of the Florida FFA or Florida 4-H program may delay using their scholarship until the Summer, Fall, or Winter term immediately after their officer tenure. **To delay and activate the use of funds**, the recipient must follow the procedures outlined in the application.

General Directions for Completing the Form and Answering the Questions

1. **Do not include your or your parent/guardian's name(s)** 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 answer and essay 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.
6. Your research may use artificial intelligence (AI). However, all your responses should reflect your own thoughts and use your own wording, and you should cite the AI used.
7. AI-generated answers and other plagiarized materials can result in point deductions, sections being excluded with point loss, 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.



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 1: Applicant Information

Section1 Part A: Applicant Personal Information (Required)

Directions: Please write 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: _____

Check with an "X."

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 (s) _____

Check with an "X" 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: _____

Check with an "X."

Post Secondary School Enrollment Hours Planned: _____ Full Time or _____ Part Time

Post Secondary School Enrollment Term Planned: _____ Summer _____ Fall or _____ Winter

Check with an "X."

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.



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 1 Part B: Qualifications and Eligibility (Required)

Qualifications and Eligibility Information:

An eligible student is 21 years old or younger by May 1 of the application 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 career in farming and/or ranching, agribusiness, or supporting business.

Note: A scholarship recipient elected as a State Officer of the Florida FFA or Florida 4-H program may delay using their scholarship until the Summer, Fall, or Winter term immediately after their officer tenure. **To delay and activate the use of funds**, the recipient must follow the procedures outlined in the application.

More information on General Procedures and Directions is in the Appendix.

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 application year. My DOB is _____.
Please place an "X" beside your enrollment plans.

• **I plan** to attain an agricultural degree or certificate, or one in a related agri-business, 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 2027,
_____ fall term/session of 2027, or
_____ winter term/session of 2027-2028.

Please place an "X" for 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 supporting _____

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, or private school, or a 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.



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 2: Short Answer Questions

(50 points)

General Directions for Section 2 Part A & B

- You are to answer each question in at least 15 and at most 75 words 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**.
- Any digital files **will have to be converted** to a **print copy** for submission.
- Label your typed separate paper "*Section 2: Short Answer Questions*." Also, on the separate paper, copy and number each of the subheadings, such as *Section 2, Part A: Personal Information* and each specific *Short Answer Question*.
- Number the pages and **attach** your **printed** pages to Section 1 of the application.

Section 2 Part A Short Answer Questions: Personal Information

(10 Points)

- Describe two ways you plan to make a positive, meaningful contribution to the field of agriculture after completing your post-secondary work. (10 points)

Section 2 Part B Short Answer Questions : Agricultural Knowledge

(40 Points)

- What are two (2) changes in consumer demand affecting ranching? (10 points)
- Give an example of how you have had some experience with technology improving your farm/ranch activities or projects or ag. related activities. (10 points)
- Describe one environmental issue for ranchers and two (2) ways to fix it. (10 points)
- What do you think is the most crucial role of the agricultural industry? (10 points)



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

Section 3: Scholarship Essay

(50 points)

Directions

- a) You are to prepare on separate papers a **2 - 4-page typed essay** on the Essay Prompt. **Digital files must be converted into a print format** for attaching to your printed **hand-delivered** application submission.
- b) If your answers exceed or fall short of the 2-4 typed page limits, then **three points will be deducted**.
- c) For the **Topic Points** listed below, the judges will rate how you connect each to your main essay's idea and opinion. **Three (3) points will be deducted for each Topic Point omitted**.
- d) 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.
- e) Reminder: Digital applications are not accepted; **only printed copies** are accepted.

Essay Prompt:

Explain why you have chosen to pursue a career in agriculture or a related agribusiness field, including your educational and career goals and the inspiration behind your decision.

Topic Points:

1. Why have you chosen a career in agriculture or a related agribusiness? (15 points)
2. What are your career and educational goals? (10 points)
3. What has inspired your interest in your agricultural or ag-related career? (15 points)
4. Highlight what winning this scholarship would mean to you. (10) points



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

HCCW Scholarship Application Form

HCCW Scholarship Application Certification

Section 4: Certification Directions

1. Sign this Certification form and write the date.
2. You **must** include the original Certification in your application packet following the Section 3 papers.
3. 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: _____

**Hernando County Cattlemen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen**



APPENDIX
HCCW Scholarship Application Form:
Detailed Procedures and Directions

*Hernando County Cattlemen
2026-2027*



**Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen**

Appendix

HCCW Scholarship Application Form: HCCW Scholarship Procedures & Directions

General Application Procedures and Directions

1. By April 1, the application is to be **hand-delivered in a sealed envelope, not put in the Drop Box**, 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 cover or page one.
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 paid HCCW membership dues for the entire HCCW calendar year, from September through May preceding their child's scholarship application, and for the current application year.
6. Two recommendation letters are required, one from a person in agriculture.
7. A one-page resume is required, highlighting your non-agricultural and agricultural activities, achievements, community service, and positions held.
8. The applicant is to follow the directions outlined for the short answer questions and the essay.
9. A scholarship recipient **elected as a State Officer** of the Florida FFA or Florida 4-H program **may delay using their scholarship** until the Summer, Fall, or Winter term immediately after their officer tenure. To delay and activate the use of funds, **the recipient must follow the procedures outlined in the Scholarship Winner's Responsibilities Section listed below in this Appendix.**

HCCW Assurances

1. Each **eligible** entry is rated through a blind review judging process, ensuring a fair and impartial quality assessment.
2. The names are blacked out in the judge's materials. This anonymous review process removes bias and ensures that each application is evaluated fairly and on its merits.
3. The judging session is held in closed sessions to ensure fairness and confidentiality. Only the Judges and, if appointed, the Independent Observer, a neutral party, may be present during the rating and analysis of the application. All discussions during the process are confidential.
4. The applicant must score 70% of the total points to qualify for the scholarship.
5. Tiebreakers will be determined in the following order: 1) the Section 3 Scholarship Essay score, 2) the Section 2 Part B score, and 3) the activities listed on the resume.
6. The Scholarship Chair will notify applicants of their status by April 30.



Hernando County Cattlewomen
Scholarship in Partnership with the
Hernando County Cattlemen

Appendix

HCCW Scholarship Application Form: HCCW Scholarship Procedures & Directions

Scholarship Winner's Responsibilities

1. The winner must attend HCCW's awards meeting in May, either in person or virtually, to introduce themselves and briefly explain their plans, or appeal this requirement.
2. Once the recipient provides the Scholarship Chair with proof of acceptance, a class schedule, and the tuition bill, tuition funds are released directly to the institution.
3. The winner must inform HCCW of their intended enrollment term and enroll by that intended term to keep the scholarship or appeal for an extension before the intended enrollment date.
4. The winner must claim the funds before their intended enrollment term or appeal a change by that date; otherwise, the funds will be rolled over for next year's scholarship.
5. Funds exceeding the first term's tuition for up to three ensuing terms will be used for future tuition; the rule may be appealed. **Each payout follows the initial procedures.**
6. After the HCCW-funded term, the recipient must email the Chair within six weeks a **summary of their experiences and learnings** about agriculture to fulfill their responsibilities and to access their surplus funds, if any. The rule may be appealed.
7. The recipient must, within six weeks of an HCCW-funded term, provide 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.
8. Delayed Scholarship Information: A scholarship recipient elected as a State Officer of the Florida FFA or Florida 4-H program may delay using their scholarship until the Summer, Fall, or Winter term immediately after their officer tenure. **To delay and activate the use of funds**, the recipient must follow the procedures outlined below for a "Delayed Scholarship" and the other procedures and timelines listed in this application.
 - a). The recipient must submit a written "Delay of Funds" request to the Scholarship Chair at least two weeks (Monday-Sunday) before the intended enrollment term stated in their application, or the funds may be forfeited. An applicant may appeal.
 - b). By April 1 of their State Officer year, the recipient must submit a written request to the Scholarship Chair stating their intent to use their "Delayed Funds" to enroll in the Summer, Fall, or Winter term immediately following their officer tenure, or the funds may be forfeited. An applicant may appeal.
 - c). The recipient must follow the procedures outlined in the application to have the funds sent to the school for tuition in the intended enrollment term, or appeal.

Scholarship Winner's Signature Acknowledging That They Are Aware of the Procedures and Their Responsibilities .

Signature

Date