



Beef Project Grant

APPLICATION FORM

for

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

*Hernando County Cattlemen
2025-2026*

**Hernando County Cattlewomen
Beef Project Grant Application Form**



The Beef Project Grant promotes the beef industry by supporting youth in agriculture. The Hernando County Cattlewomen (HCCW) grants support three youths' beef projects, each receiving \$500. The application provides information about the project, helping us know its goals, implementation plans, and how funds are to be used.

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 County homeschooler.
2. 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.

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. 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.
2. Section 1, which includes the identifying data, is shared with the judges after the winner is selected. It is used to determine eligibility, collect the necessary information, and for tiebreakers.
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 submitted application is to be handwritten, not a digital one, which includes the **Section 1 form** and your **Sections 2 and 3 separate papers** in that order.
5. 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 **February 1 of the current year.**

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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 names** 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 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 show your original thoughts and wording regarding the AI research information and be cited appropriately as needed. Plagiarized and AI-generated answers can result in point deductions, exclusion of sections, or disqualification of the applicant.

Section 1: Applicant Information (Required)

*Directions: Please **handwrite all** requested information in the space provided on this form.*

Name of Youth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Information – **Required:** Phone _____ email _____

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 _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____ Birthdate: _____

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

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

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 (60 Total Points)

Directions

1. You must **handwrite** on separate paper your answer to each question in at **least 15 words and at most 75**.
2. If you are under or over the word limit on a question, then **three (3) points will be deducted for that question**.
3. 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.
4. 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**.
5. *Reminder:* Please **do not include your or your parent/guardian's names** in your answers, as this is a "blind review" judging process to ensure fairness for each one.

Part A: Beef Project Questions (45 Points Total)

1. Describe your proposed Beef Grant project and its purpose. (10 points)
2. Describe the activities you plan to use to achieve your purpose. (10 points)
3. In some way, share your projected timeline labeled "*Question 2: Timeline,*" and include major activities. (10 points)
4. How will you use the grant's funds, such as buying livestock, pens, etc.? (5 points)
5. Please explain why your beef project is important to you. (10 points)

Part B: Agricultural Experiences (15 Points Total)

1. What livestock shows, clinics, and related activities or projects do you plan to participate in this year? (5 points)
2. 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)
3. 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 (40 points)

Directions:

1. **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?*
2. If you are under or over the page limit, then three (3) points will be **deducted**.
3. In writing your essay, each of the Topic Points listed below is to be included. **Three (3) points will be deducted for each Topic Point not written about.**
4. 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.
5. Attach your original or a printed copy of your Section 3 pages to your Section 1 and 2 answer papers.
6. 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?

Beef Industry Topic Points:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Share 2 reasons you think the beef industry is important. | (10 points) |
| 2. Describe 2 ways the public thinks about the beef industry. | (10 points) |
| 3. Talk about 1 challenge you think a rancher has in raising beef. | (5 points) |
| 4. Describe one challenge you might face in raising your project animal. | (5 points) |
| 5. How does raising beef make a difference in your life? | (10 points) |