

Application for the Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Grant Due 5 PM June 28, 2024

Name of Applicant:	Braze Ranch, LLC
Email:	brazeranch@gmail.com
Phone Number:	386-388-1815
Address of Farm/Small Producer Operation. Please include the parcel number.	18716 NE US Hwy 301, Waldo 16922-000-000, 16922-005-000, 16921-004-001, 16921-004-000, 16922-001-000, 16921-005-000
Total Funding Requested (request may not exceed \$5,000):	\$5,000
My operation's total Gross Cash Income per year is between \$1,000 and \$250,000 (yes / no) Yes AND (Please select one below) Between \$1,000 and \$75,000.	
The owner and operator of the farm has not received the Small Farmer Grant in the past two years (yes / no) No	
The owner and operator of the farm/small producer operation is a black, women, indigenous, and or persons-of-color. (yes / no) Yes, Woman	
The owner and operator of the farm is a first-time applicant OR has not received a Small Farmer Grant award in the past two years. (yes/no) Yes, first time	
If awarded the funding will only be used to purchase equipment or other capital investments that enhance the economic productivity of my operation. (yes / no) Yes	

<p>Explain what equipment is needed, its cost, how it will be utilized, and economic return to your operations.</p> <p>If you have taken the Extension Office's Agricultural Entrepreneurial Series, please attach your Farm Plan. (5 bonus points)</p>	<p>Attach additional pages if needed.</p> <p>As dedicated stewards of our farmland, we are constantly seeking ways to improve our operations and enhance the productivity of our pastures. One of the critical challenges we face is the inaccessibility of several pastures during the wet months due to a creek and several drainage swales that run the length of our property. This issue has hindered our ability to plant winter grasses and manage weed overgrowth effectively. To address this, we are applying for a grant to install culverts around the farm. This infrastructure improvement will provide essential access to all pastures year-round, enabling us to accelerate field recovery, increase forage production for our cattle, and reduce operational costs. This project is not just an immediate fix but a strategic investment in the long-term success and sustainability of our farm.</p> <p>1. How will the grant maximize or contribute to the farm's overall business plan and grow the farm's profitability or avoid costs?</p> <p>By installing culverts, we will gain better access to these fields, accelerating the recovery process and increasing the forage available for our cows. This, in turn, will reduce our reliance on purchased hay, significantly lowering our operational costs. Additionally, installing crossings will mitigate erosion, preserving the integrity of our land and ensuring sustainable use of our pastures. Overall, the grant will enable us to implement a crucial infrastructure improvement that supports the farm's profitability and long-term success.</p> <p>2. What are the estimated financial returns?</p> <p>The financial returns from this project are multifaceted, but difficult to quantify. First, by improving access to our pastures, we expect to reduce hay purchases over time. Each field that is recovered from weeds will reduce our need for purchased hay by approximately 10% annually, translating to a savings of about \$1000 per year. The ability to access the fields to plant winter annuals further reduces the need for hay, but also reduces our reliance on winter protein supplementation. Our total protein spend every winter is approximately \$3,400. Additionally, healthier pastures will support a larger herd. The Alachua County Agriculture Appraiser has mandated that we grow our herd to maintain our ag classification, which has the potential to increase our property tax bill by a few hundred dollars to ten thousand dollars per year. Growing our herd will also allow for increased cattle sales of \$7,500-\$30,000 annually within the next five years. Furthermore, reducing</p>
---	--

erosion will help maintain the fertility of our fields, contributing to sustained agricultural productivity and long-term land value. The cumulative financial return over the next five years could exceed \$30,000, making this project a sound investment in the farm's future.

3. What specifically will be purchased with the grant funds?

The grant funds will be used to purchase and install culverts at strategic locations across the farm to facilitate year-round access to all pastures. Specifically, the funds will help cover:

- Culvert pipes (\$2840)
- Gravel, riprap, and limestone (\$3000)

The installation of these culverts is essential for the efficient operation of our farm, ensuring that we can reach all areas regardless of weather conditions, thereby maximizing productivity and sustainability.



I certify that I am an Alachua County resident, have an agricultural exemption, and that all information in this grant application is true and correct. I understand that any errors, misrepresentations, or omissions in this application may result in the application not being considered, points reduced, or if discovered after the award, that the grant funds may be reimbursed to Alachua County.