

Application for the Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Grant Due 5 PM June 28, 2024

Name of Applicant:	Sarah Cervone
Email:	sarah.cervone@gmail.com
Phone Number:	(352)562-5138
Address of Farm/Small Producer Operation. Please include the parcel number.	Parcel # 1919152-003-000 and 19152-002-000 Farm Service Agency #5831 1928 SE 245 th Street, Hawthorne, FL
Total Funding Requested (request may not exceed \$5,000):	\$5000.00
<p>My operation's total Gross Cash Income per year is between \$1,000 and \$250,000 YES</p> <p>AND (Please select one below)</p> <p>Between \$1,000 and \$75,000</p>	
<p>The owner and operator of the farm has not received the Small Farmer Grant in the past two years YES</p>	
<p>The owner and operator of the farm/small producer operation is a black, women, indigenous, and or persons-of-color. YES - Woman</p>	
<p>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 – First Time</p>	
<p>If awarded the funding will only be used to purchase equipment or other capital investments that enhance the economic productivity of my operation. YES</p>	

Explain what equipment is needed, its cost, how it will be utilized, and economic return to your operations.

If you have taken the Extension Office's Agricultural Entrepreneurial Series, please attach your Farm Plan. (5 bonus points)

Project Title: Enhancing Rotational Grazing Infrastructure for Sustainable Agriculture in Hawthorne, Alachua County

The Wild Wood Stead is a small farm located in East Alachua County (parcels #19152-001-00 and #19152-002-00) dedicated to implementing restoration agriculture principles and sustainable resource management. Situated between two protected areas in Hawthorne managed by Alachua Conservation Trust and Alachua County, our farm utilizes multi-species rotational grazing to produce grassfed meat and to manage the understory of an historically upland pine ecosystem.

Project Description: Currently, our farm rotates cracker cattle, water buffalo, and goats across three grazing areas. Livestock are supplemented with additional hay. However, to enhance our rotational grazing strategy and ensure sustainable land management, we propose constructing a new 222' x 252' paddock on parcel #19152-002-000. This addition will allow us to optimize grazing patterns and support the growth of winter forage (rye, oat, radish and clover) and summer forage (millet, legumes and greens.)

Objectives:

1. **Promote Food System Economic Resilience:** By expanding our rotational grazing infrastructure, we aim to bolster local food production capacity, ensuring resilience in our community's food system by defraying reliance on costly and unreliable external forage production.
2. **Maximize Business Profitability and Efficiency:** We currently buy one round bale of hay (\$80-\$100) every one to two weeks at an annual cost of \$2080 to \$5200 and alfalfa pellets for protein supplements \$50 weekly at an annual cost of \$2600. The additional paddock will create a fourth rotational grazing area and enable a more effective grazing pattern that allows existing pastures to rest and regenerate. This strategic approach not only enhances ecological sustainability but also anticipates financial returns through increased productivity and a projected 30% reduction in annual forage expenses through improved grazing management and reduced supplementary feeding requirements.
3. **Enhance Environmental Stewardship:** Improved grazing management will help preserve the integrity of the wooded range area, promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health in a way consistent with the surrounding areas.

Budget Estimation:

- **Field Fence:** 888 feet (five 200' Rolls at \$458 each) = \$2,290

- **Fence Posts:** 111 treated 4" x 8' wood posts (\$14 each) = \$1554.00
- **Fence Post Nails:** Four 5lb boxes (\$21 each) = \$84
- **Gates:** 4 wire mesh gates (\$299 each) = \$1196

Estimated Total: \$5,124 (The Wild Wood Stead will pay for the additional \$124, labor and any price increases resulting from inflation taking place since the time of application).

The UF IFAS Extension Ag Entrepreneurship Planning Course

Currently enrolled, and the course concludes on 27, 2024.



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.

Saul Cerone 6/24/24