

Application for the Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Grant Due 5 PM June 28, 2024

Name of Applicant:	Susan M Frey
Email:	FarmHerChestnutGrove@gmail.com
Phone Number:	352-256-1629
Address of Farm/Small Producer Operation. Please include the parcel number.	18940 NW 83 rd Place Alachua, FL 32615 Parcel #8, Tax Parcel #04074-002-001
Total Funding Requested (request may not exceed \$5,000):	\$5000.00 Capital Equipment (Electricity)
<p>My operation's total Gross Cash Income per year is between \$1,000 and \$250,000 (yes / no) YES</p> <p>AND (Please select one below)</p> <p>Between \$1,000 and \$75,000. YES</p> <p>Between \$75,001 and \$150,000.</p> <p>Between \$150,001 and \$250,000.</p>	
<p>The owner and operator of the farm has not received the Small Farmer Grant in the past two years (yes / no) YES</p>	
<p>The owner and operator of the farm/small producer operation is a black, women, indigenous, and or persons-of-color. (yes / no) YES</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/no) YES</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 / no) YES</p>	

<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>I purchased this 5-acre agricultural property in February 2023. It had 457 established (25-30 Yr old) Chestnut trees that had been neglected. No well or electricity. Irrigation from 2 surrounding farms was used to establish the grove. The field was filled with brush, vines and dead branches invaded most of the trees. My yield harvest was 450 lbs of chestnuts for the 2023 season, I sold them through Facebook Marketplace, local Farmers Markets and a local Asian Market.</p> <p>In March 2023 I had an 18X25 Metal Shed built. In May 2023. I purchased a 33 ft RV/Office which was run by a generator. Potable water is brought in for harvesting and stored in 275-gallon tanks. July 2023, I had electricity installed on the property. For a total cost of \$5755.71.</p> <p>For this, Clay Electric established a 911 address for the property. I was able to have the conduit installed for 100 AMPS of electricity. The main breaker is run to the shed. An additional outlet has been run to the RV/Office. The county also placed a street sign at the entrance of the property. These small additions give the county a landmark for emergency needs of the other properties on this road.</p> <p>With this electrical installation I was able to purchase a commercial refrigerator which is essential for curing the chestnuts after harvest. They need to be stored for 3 weeks at a cold temperature of at least 38 degrees F and at at least 88% humidity after harvest for the starch to convert to sugar before sold.</p> <p>Our cost for running the generator was about \$300.00/month in fuel and this is intermittent usage. The initial expense of the electric install is much more efficient and Clay electric is between 40.00-80.00/mo. Additionally, having electricity for the commercial refrigerator enable me to cure the chestnuts to sell the harvest.</p> <p>Now that the grove is clean a good base of nitrogen rich grass has been established, the trees are visibly healthier, and pollinators are enriching the atmosphere for the trees. I estimate my harvest this year to at least be double if not greater from last year. Visibly there are many more trees that have a higher bloom than last spring.</p> <p>450 lbs of chestnuts wholesale and retail sales, Giant, Jumbo and Mammoth sizes (\$4.00-\$10.00per lb.) equated to \$2800.00 in sales last season.</p>
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I estimate this year I should harvest 1000 lbs to bring in approximately \$6,000.00.

Future plans will be to have a well drilled and the electricity will already be there to run the water pump. This will allow irrigation to be set up for replacement of trees that did not survive the neglect of the grove. My plans are to plant long harvest chestnut trees that will extend my harvest into December.

I have taken the Extension Office's Produce Safety course which included an entrepreneurial Farm Plan. My crop is so specialized I had to reach out to Michigan State University, Cornell University and Princeton's Farmery to obtain specific Chestnut grove information.

Thank you, I greatly appreciate the availability of this grant.

My residential address is:

11819 NW 10th Ave.

Gainesville, FL 32606

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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.