

# Application for the Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Grant Due 5 PM June 28, 2024

Name of Applicant:	Savanna Johnson
Email:	<a href="mailto:johnsonsm0403@gmail.com">johnsonsm0403@gmail.com</a>
Phone Number:	352-519-8346
Address of Farm/Small Producer Operation. <b>Please include the parcel number.</b>	1027 SE CR 219A Hawthorne, FL 32640 19129-003-001
Total Funding Requested (request may not exceed \$5,000):	approximately \$3,804.43
<p>My operation's total Gross Cash Income per year is between \$1,000 and \$250,000 (yes / no)     <b>YES</b></p> <p><b>AND (Please select one below)</b></p> <p><u>Between \$1,000 and \$75,000.</u></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)     <b>YES</b></p>	
<p>The owner and operator of the farm/small producer operation is a black, women, indigenous, and or persons-of-color. (yes / no)     <b>YES</b></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)     <b>YES</b></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)     <b>YES</b></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>A feed storage shed costing approximately \$3,804.43 (see attached quote), for protecting cow feed from rodents is crucial for several reasons, especially in a high school student-run operation in Alachua County, Florida, such as mine. Here's why:</p> <p><b>Importance of a Feed Storage Shed:</b></p> <p>Rodent Control: Rodents are attracted to feed due to its nutritional content. They can contaminate the feed with their droppings and urine, making it unfit for consumption for my cows. This can lead to health issues in the cows and financial losses for the operation.</p> <p>Weather Protection: Florida's climate, with its high humidity and occasional heavy rains, can quickly degrade feed quality if it's not stored properly. A shed protects feed from moisture and exposure to sunlight, which can lead to mold growth and nutrient degradation.</p> <p>Storage Organization: A dedicated storage shed helps in organizing feed supplies efficiently. It allows for proper rotation of feed to ensure freshness and reduces the risk of feed going stale or becoming unusable over time.</p> <p>Security: Securing feed in a shed reduces the risk of theft or unauthorized access, which can occur in open storage areas.</p> <p><b>Economic Returns to a Small, High School Student-Run Operation:</b></p> <p>For a student-run operation in Alachua County, Florida, like mine, the economic benefits of investing in a feed storage shed include:</p> <p>Feed Preservation: By protecting feed from spoilage and contamination, the shed ensures that each batch of feed remains usable. This reduces waste and the need to replace spoiled feed, saving money over time.</p> <p>Healthier Cattle: High-quality feed leads to healthier cattle. Healthy cattle are more productive, requiring fewer veterinary expenses and leading to higher-quality milk or meat products if applicable.</p> <p>Operational Efficiency: With organized and protected storage, a student, like me, can manage inventory more effectively. I can plan purchases better, taking advantage of bulk discounts and minimizing emergency purchases.</p> <p>Long-Term Cost Savings: While the initial investment in a</p>
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storage shed may seem significant, the long-term savings in feed costs, reduced waste, and improved cattle health can justify the expense.

Educational Value: Beyond economics, having a well-managed operation with proper facilities provides valuable learning experiences for students. I will gain practical skills in agriculture, animal husbandry, and business management, which can be beneficial for future careers or further education.

In conclusion, I purchase approximately one to two tons of feed a month that sits on a pallet in our open sided pole barn that houses hay rolls. A feed storage shed is not just a protective measure against rodents and weather that cause some degree of feed loss from every feed purchase; it's a sound economic investment for a smaller sized operation like mine. It supports cost savings, operational efficiency, and educational opportunities, while ensuring the health and productivity of the cattle being raised.



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.



