

By Senator Perry

8-00892A-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Young Farmer and  
3           Rancher Matching Grant Program; creating s. 288.06572,  
4           F.S.; creating the program within the Department of  
5           Agriculture and Consumer Services; specifying the  
6           purpose of grants administered through the program;  
7           requiring the department to select grant recipients  
8           based on specified criteria; requiring the department  
9           to adopt rules; requiring that applicants meet  
10          specified eligibility requirements; specifying a range  
11          for grant amounts; providing that a recipient may not  
12          receive more than one award per year under the  
13          program; specifying that grant funding is contingent  
14          upon specific annual appropriation by the Legislature;  
15          providing an appropriation; providing an effective  
16          date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20           Section 1. Section 288.06572, Florida Statutes, is created  
21 to read:

22           288.06572 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Matching Grant  
23 Program.—

24           (1) The Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Matching Grant  
25 Program is created within the Department of Agriculture and  
26 Consumer Services to support the start-up functions associated  
27 with new farming and ranching operations.

28           (a) Grants administered by the Department of Agriculture  
29 and Consumer Services through the program must be for the

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30 purpose of fostering the creation and expansion of agricultural  
31 businesses by young farmers and ranchers in this state.

32 (b) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
33 shall select grant recipients based on selection criteria  
34 adopted pursuant to subsection (2).

35 (2) (a) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
36 shall adopt rules governing the operation of the program,  
37 including an application process and selection criteria for  
38 grant recipients.

39 (b) At a minimum, in order to be eligible to receive a  
40 grant, an individual must meet all of the following  
41 requirements:

42 1. Be an agricultural producer, be an employee of a farm or  
43 ranch, or be an agricultural producer who is a veteran as  
44 defined in s. 1.01(14).

45 2. Be at least 18 years of age but not older than 35 years  
46 of age.

47 3. Have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10  
48 years.

49 4. Demonstrate, at minimum, a dollar-for-dollar matching  
50 investment for the grant amount requested.

51 5. Submit, on a form prescribed by the Department of  
52 Agriculture and Consumer Services, a grant application during  
53 the application period established by the Department of  
54 Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Department of Agriculture  
55 and Consumer Services may designate only one period each year  
56 for accepting applications.

57 (3) Each grant award under the program must be at least  
58 \$5,000 but not more than \$20,000, and a grant recipient may not

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59 receive more than one award per grant period.

60 (4) Annual grant funding for this program is contingent  
61 upon specific annual appropriation by the Legislature.

62 Section 2. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of  
63 \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
64 Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
65 Services for the purpose of implementing this act.

66 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.