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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 specified eligibility requirements; specifying a range 10 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 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 18 19 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 The Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Matching Grant (1) 25 Program is created within the Department of Agriculture and Page 1 of 3

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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
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
43	or 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	<u>of age.</u>
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.
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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 \$5,000 but not more than \$20,000, and a grant recipient may not 58 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.

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