Knox-Union Cattleman’s Association Scholarship Program

Scholarship Overview

The Knox-Union Cattlemen’s Association (KUCA) may award up to two (2) college scholarships of $1000 each to outstanding students who have interest in the beef industry. The fields of study are not limited to agriculture or related pursuits. We seek to support and encourage students who have grown up in the agricultural community, who have interest in supporting the agricultural interests in their careers, and who have linkages to the Knox and Union County communities.

Submission and Assessment Process

The scholarships will be awarded based on an objective use of a weighted scoring system. Each application will be scored in the categories defined in the weighted criteria and the points will be totaled. The evaluation will be performed by the scholarship committee, appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make the selection and the decisions of the Board will be final. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be compiled for evaluation, which will be conducted in June of each year with awards made in August. The submission deadline for each year is May 31. Any applications received after May 31 will be held for the following year. Successful applicants will be awarded $1000 scholarships. While it is our intent to award 2 scholarships each year, the Board reserves the right to award any number, based on available resources and the quality of applications.

The weighed scoring criteria are:

1) Relationship with Knox or Union Counties and association with the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association – 25 points
2) Activities related to agriculture and environmental responsibility – 20 points (examples include 4-H, FFA, community, scouting, and other involvements)
3) Academic/career interests and alignment will the interests of the agricultural industry – 10 points
4) Basic of need and potential impact – 10 points
5) Evaluation of essay regarding a topic of importance to the cattle industry – 20 points
6) Character and responsibility evaluation, based only on written letters of recommendations that accompany the applications – 15 points
Application Process

The applicant should provide a single package to ren1946@gmail.com or a hard copy package mail to Richard Neal, 1315 W Bullrun Valley Drive, Heiskell, TN. The package should include:

Part 1: A letter of application – This letter should specifically call out (in separate highlighted sections) the direct answers to criteria 1-4. The letter should be addressed to the Knox-Union Cattlemen’s Association, Board of Directors.

- Relationship with Knox and/or Union Counties
- Agriculture related activities
- Academic/career interests
- Basis of need and potential impact

Part 2: Essay - An essay of at least 1000 words and no more than 1200

Part 3: Letters of recommendation – Three letters are required

Explaination and helpful pointers for applicants

Part 1 – Letter of Application – Note that 65 points of 100 are allocated to the letters of application. Therefore, the applicant should provide sufficient information for full topic coverage. The evaluation criteria (topics listed below) should be specifically addressed in the letter under separate headings. Rich paragraphs for each topic are appropriate. There is no size limit for Part 1.

1) Relationship with Knox and/or Union Counties - A major intent of the cattlemans’s scholarship program is to support the growth and development of tomorrow’s agricultural leaders in Knox and Union Counties. A subservient goal is to support the interest of the members and families of the Knox-Union Cattlemans’s association. Therefore, the highest weighed criterion is the relationship with Knox and/or Union Counties, which the KUCA serves. The applicant should clearly state their residence and any affiliation with KUCA.

2) Agriculture Related Activities - We want to reward involvement in activities that connect with the land and the agricultural industry. Engagement in 4-H, FFA, scouting, community affairs, environmental preservation and other similar activities should be included in the application.

3) Academic/career interests – It is our desire to support the agricultural and livestock interests. However, we do not wish to dictate the career path. For example, teachers,
doctors, business leaders, lawyers, journalists, engineers, craftspersons . . . all are important professions that support the agricultural industry. If your career path is directly in agriculture, please state. If not, please assure us of your dedication to, and support for, the protection and conscientious use of the land for the good of our society.

4) **Basic of need and potential impact** – We want to know that our funds are well spent. Being as specific as you can, please define the financial need that will be addressed through this scholarship.

**Part 2 - Essay** – The most tangible instrument available to the committee and to the Board of Directors is the essay that the applicant provides. That essay should be double spaced and should contain between 1000 and 1200 words using at least an 11 point Font. The most important advice to applicants is that the essay should be your own opinion, should address a topic of importance to the agricultural industry – and to the applicant - and should be innovative. Tying the essay topic to a point of personal passion and career interest is helpful to the selection committee. We caution that information copied from the internet is easy to identify. We want to know what you think, in your own words. If you use references, please cite those references.

**Part 3 - Letters of Reference (supporting character and responsibility evaluation)** –
The applicant should secure and submit three letters of support. The letters should attest to knowledge of good character and personal responsibility. The letters should also include discussion of involvement in agricultural and leadership opportunities. There is no specific format or length requirements for the letters. Good candidates for letter submission include 4-H and FFA leaders, teachers, pastors, employers, etc.
Contact Information
Name

Mailing Address
City State Zip

Daytime phone number

Email Address

Are you or your family a member of Knox-Union Cattlemen’s Association? Yes No

Name of Member (if applicable)

High School Graduation Date

College/University attending

Major

Current status (freshman, sophomore, etc.)

Anticipated year of graduation from college

The KUCA reserves the right to publish all or any part(s) of the essays submitted.

Signature of Applicant Date

Enclosures:
1. Letter of application
2. Essay
3. Three letters of reference

The packet should be mailed to:
The Knox/Union Cattlemen’s Association
c/o Richard Neal
1315 W. Bullrun Valley Dr.
Heiskell, TN 37754
Or emailed to ren1946@gmail.com