

**Santee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** in Summerton, South Carolina, Clarendon County, has a cooperative farming opportunity available on approximately 145 acres. This includes 60 acres for winter wheat (Bluff Unit), 60 acres for rice (Cuddo Unit), and 25 acres for rice (Pine Island Unit). The primary purpose of Santee NWR is to provide high-quality habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. In recent years, the refuge has up to 40,000 wintering waterfowl. Farming on refuges helps to ensure that waterfowl meet their foraging needs to enhance body condition, replenish energy during migration, and support reproductive success.

Crops including rice and winter wheat are allowed. Producers may farm on a split-cost share, with a percentage of the acres planted for wildlife and left standing as the refuge share. The producer is responsible for all equipment, fuel, seed, fertilizer, approved herbicides, and labor necessary to farm on the refuge. This opportunity will be administered through a cooperative farming agreement and a special use permit. Agreements may be renewed annually and can be extended for up to five years.

To be considered, producers must complete a Bid Sheet and a Special Use Permit Application. These forms and unit maps are available at the Santee NWR Office/Visitor Center or by email request to [monica\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:monica_williams@fws.gov). Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2023, via email, mail or hand delivery to 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148.

The cooperator will be selected through an open and competitive process. All applicants will be notified by February 10, 2023. For more details, please contact Monica Williams, Refuge Manager at [monica\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:monica_williams@fws.gov) or 803-478-2217.