Return Application To:  
Melanie Ruhlman  
Save Our Saluda  
P.O. Box 345  
Marietta, SC 29661

Questions should be addressed to:  
info@saveoursaluda.org  
Ph (864) 270-7629

NORTH SALUDA RIVER – SALUDA LAKE WATERSHED  
AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

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Landowner ☐  Renter ☐

*If applicant is not the landowner, complete the landowner information and have all parties sign all forms, or provide a copy of a 10-year lease in lieu of landowner signatures.
Please answer the following questions:

1. Total Farm Acreage: __________

2. Land Use
   Percent or acreage of farm in:
   • Cropland __________
   • Pastureland __________
   • Other (i.e. non-pastured wetlands, natural areas) __________

3. Type of agricultural operation:
   - Animals
     Type ___________________________ Number: ____________
     Type ___________________________ Number: ____________
     Type ___________________________ Number: ____________
   - Facility Number/DWQ Permit Number (if applicable) __________
   - Crop (i.e. vegetables, rotational wheat, soybeans, cotton, corn, rye, etc.)
     Type: ___________________________ Acreage: ____________
     Type: ___________________________ Acreage: ____________
     Type: ___________________________ Acreage: ____________
   - Vineyard/Orchard:
     Type: ___________________________ Acreage: ____________
     Type: ___________________________ Acreage: ____________
   - Nursery
   - Animal Feed Operations:
     Type ___________________________ Number: ____________
     Type ___________________________ Number: ____________
   - Other (please describe) ____________________________________

4. Does your operation have any Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs)?* Yes □ No □
   *Definition of Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs): Livestock confinement areas other than indoor facilities and true pastures, including:
   • Barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots, and similar animal confinement areas that will not maintain a growing crop
   • Heavily stocked livestock areas where nutrients are applied by animals in excess of crop removal requirements
   • Animal congregation areas within pastures that meet the above requirements, such as: supplemental feeding, shade, and watering areas

5. To your knowledge, does untreated, unfiltered runoff from the area enter a local waterway? Yes □ No □

6. To your knowledge, is the area within 50 feet of an active well, spring, or sinkhole? Yes □ No □

7. Is this a newly established farm operation? Yes* □ No □
   *If yes, please provide the date the operation was established: __________

8. Has the operation expanded in the last three (3) years? Yes* □ No □
   *If yes, please describe the expansion (i.e., land purchase, increase in # of animals, etc.): ______________________________

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9. Do you have farm records established with the USDA-Farm Service Agency?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Does the farm operation you are applying for have a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Plan?
    Yes* ☐ No ☐

    *If yes:
    • Attach a copy of the plan map.
    • Provide the date of the Conservation Plan __________
    • Provide the Conservation Plan Number ____________
    • Has the Plan been partially or fully implemented? No ☐ Partially ☐ Fully ☐

11. Please describe any conservation practices currently used on the farm. __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

**Important Terms and Conditions of Application Award**

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assistance on the basis of race, color, national origin, or on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving EPA assistance under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, including the Environmental Financing Act of 1972.

The Privacy Act of 1974 protects the personal information the federal government keeps on you in “systems of records (SOR)” (information an agency controls that can be retrieved by name or some other personal identifier). The Privacy Act regulates how the government can disclose, share, provide access to, and maintain the personal information that it collects. Not all information collected online is covered by the Privacy Act.

To be awarded funding the applicant must have control over the land for the duration of the proposed activity. The applicant certifies that the applicant will control the land subject to this application for the term of the activity which may be awarded. Upon request, the applicant will need to provide evidence demonstrating that such applicant has control of the land for the period. Where applicable, consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs or other agencies will be conducted. The applicant shall not be eligible for payments for any of the following: (1) practices or activities the participant is required to implement to address non-compliance with the HELC and WC provisions at 7 CFR part 12 (AMA participants are not subject to HELC or WC provisions); (2) a non-land based structure that is not integral to a land based practice or activity; (3) practices and activities that were applied with financial assistance through any other USDA conservation or SCDHEC 319 program; (4) practices or activities that were initiated or implemented prior to contract obligation.

The applicant will be responsible for obtaining the authorities, permits, easements, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practices and activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. An applicant or participant must comply with all laws and is responsible for all effects or actions resulting from the performance of any awarded grant.

The applicant must begin an awarded project within 3 months and complete the same project within 6 months of the award unless a requested extension has been approved.
The applicant will establish or implement any awarded conservation practices as described in the award, in accordance with the Conservation Plan. The Plan will be developed cooperatively with the applicant and will be based on USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications. Inspections conducted by the Save Our Saluda, GCSWCD or NRCS. The applicant will operate and maintain these practices or activities for the intended purpose and life span of the awarded conservation practices. In cases where the land is transferred to new ownership or management the awarded conservation practices must be transferred to subsequent owners or managers.

Approved applications will receive up to 90% of the average USDA NRCS cost of practice. The contract must be signed prior to project implementation to receive reimbursement – no funds will be reimbursed without prior written approvals.

Applicants will need to allow the Save Our Saluda conservation technician or other representative designated by Save Our Saluda to access to the land for planning purposes and inspections. Applicants will maintain proof of payments documentation for a minimum of 3 years after the completion of the awarded project.

If an applicant fails to carry-out the terms and conditions, it is determined the contract will violate a statue or regulation, or the applicant dies without transfer of the award to an eligible person with 90 days of an awarded project, the contract may be terminated without liability.

In the event an applicant is awarded funds and violates the terms of the agreement and the contract is terminated, the applicant will be required to refund any payments and will be required to pay an amount equal to 10 percent of the total financial assistance obligated to the applicant. This liquidated damages payment is for recovery of administrative costs and technical services and is not a penalty.

Please submit your application to the following address:

Save Our Saluda, P.O. Box 345, Marietta, SC 29661

Questions should be addressed to:

Melanie Ruhlman at info@saveoursaluda.org or (864) 270-7629.

I hereby apply for financial assistance under the North Saluda River – Saluda Lake Watershed Agricultural Financial Assistance Program for the implementation of conservation practices on the property. I understand the Program may require a financial contribution from the applicant. This application does not guarantee cost share approval or obligate the applicant to enter into a financial assistance agreement. For the purposes of developing and implementing my application, I authorize the release of records that are in custody of USDA. I acknowledge that producer, landowner and farm information provided on this application and/or accompanying documents, including information and documents received from the USDA, are subject to the South Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Applicant Signature ____________________________ Date ________________

Landowner Signature __________________________ Date ________________