

Narrative Report
Madison County Soil Conservation District
1943

The greatest problem facing the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of the year was the necessity of helping a large number of farmers to realize their goals of increased food and feed production for the war effort in spite of an acute labor shortage.

It was decided that the best method to solve this problem was to encourage such practices as terracing, contour cultivation, crop rotation, land selection, fertilizers, for specific crops, liming and phosphating. The farmer would also be advised as to the selection of the best varieties of crops planted for increased production. Winter cover crops were emphasized as a means of increasing productivity, and for winter and spring grazing to supplement the regular pasture programs.

It was felt that because of the shortage of labor the farmers should be encouraged to group labor and machinery, in order to realize their goals.

In an effort to aid the farmers, 129 educational meetings, attended by 4,000 farmers, were held. At which time the above practices were explained and plans worked out for demonstrations of several of these practices. This resulted in 53 demonstrations, and 8 field tours were conducted in an effort to establish these practices. Following these demonstrations during the year, 108 farmers terraces 2,374 acres; 80 farmers constructed terrace outlets; 55 farmers had 2,374 acres of contour cultivation, and over 200 applications were received from farmers requesting a complete long-term conservation program on their farms.

The attitude of the farmers of the county towards the program is good and cooperative in every way. All meeting held in connection with soil conservation work were well attended; many questions were raised by those present and round table discussion of these questions and problems were participated in all present.

The local newspaper has been very cooperative in every way. The bankers and business men feel that any program which will aid the farmer will be good business for them. They seem to think that soil conservation is one of the most important services to be rendered to the farmer. Many officials of the bank, as well as other business men, own farms and can appreciate the need for soil conservation practices.

There is a fine relationship existing between various agencies of the county and the district. The Extension Service, Farm Security, AA, Production Credit Association and Farm Bureau all seem to have full appreciation of the importance of the District Program. These agencies work very closely with the District, and by so doing contribute much toward the expansion of the services of the District to the farmers of the county.

By way of a summary of the work in the district for the year the following was accomplished. District assistance was given to 238 farmers, owning 34, 986 acres of land. This includes 4,473 acres of terraces, 8,680 acres of improved crop rotation, 4,384 acres of contour cultivation, 17 acres of kudzu plantings, 88 acres of lespedeza sereicea seeding, 124 seeded terrace outlets, 791 acres of improved pasture, 100 acres of drainage, 16 acres of woodland improvement and 7 farm ponds for livestock; one fish pond.

The Board of Supervisors plan to continue a program for 1944, similar to that of last year, with special emphasis on the following practices, as we believe the farmers can establish these practices with a minimum of labor and at the same time increase the feed and food program for 1944.

Contour cultivation, terraces, liming and phosphating, pasture improvements, and selecting war crops for the land, saving legume seed, seeding winter cover crops, aid in farm drainage and farm pond construction for livestock and fish.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tom Lewis", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**TOM Lewis, Chairman
District Governing Body**