

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
OF THE  
DISTRICT SUPERVISORS  
MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 1948

To: The Farmers of Madison County

The Madison County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors submit to the farmers of the district whom they represent, the following report of 1948.

Reports show that during the year just ending 72 farm conservation plans were worked out on farms in the county covering 10,888 acres. These plans call for a complete conservation program on each farm. Since 1941, when the district was organized, a total of 904 farm plans have been prepared covering 159,219 acres. Highly satisfactory progress has been made, we feel, toward the establishment of these practices.

Increased interest is being shown by farmers in the program. We have on hand over 70 applications for assistance in conservation work from farmers of the county. Considerable educational work has been done by the county agent and his assistants and this, along with conservation demonstrations, has kept many local farmers aware of the land erosion problems.

Conservation surveys have been completed for the entire county. This means that all farmers can secure basic detailed information as to the soil type, degree of erosion, and slope of their entire farm. This information is necessary for complete conservation farm planning.

Over 9,000 acres of wet bottom land have been properly drained. This includes drainage done by individual farmers and by groups of farmers. Completed this summer was a group enterprise on C. T. Phillips' and Union University farm. This ditch can be seen from the river bridge just south of Jackson on Highway 45. The district supervisors look forward to the time when satisfactory drainage can be done on the farms in the northern section of the county along the middle fork of the Forked Deer River. Some work is being done on this river by the U. S. Engineers.

We feel that much progress has been made in the vegetative conservation practices this year. Increased acreages of winter cover crops, permanent pastures, sericea, and kudzu have been established. Volunteer stands of winter cover are being developed by several Madison County farmers. I. W. Sanders of Fairview thinks bur clover works out fine for this. He allowed a field of this clover to mature seed five years ago and he says that he has gotten a good stand every year since. Howard Johnson, a Bear Creek Community farmer, believes in winter cover. Almost every acre of his cropland is seeded each year. "I would not be without winter cover," he says. "It pays off and pays off well."

District supervisors J. Harris Smith of Pope Community and James S. Lawrence of Westover Community, harvested fescue seed this year and made it available to the farmers in the county. Fescue and clover make one of the best pastures and is adapted to our wet bottomlands.

Horace Brown, a farmer near Pinson, has three acres of kudzu. A large gullied area has almost filled and the more level acres are out for hay each year. Mr. Brown is ready to realize a direct income from his kudzu by harvesting and selling the crowns in 1949.

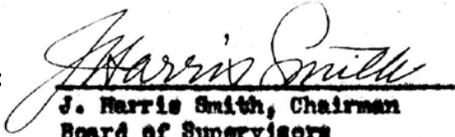
This year the Soil Conservation Service assigned a negro Conservation Aide to the district and the supervisors have worked out a plan with negro farmers of the county whereby this Aide works exclusively with negro district cooperators. He assists them with the establishment of practices called for in their conservation plans.

Various federal, state and county agencies have assisted the district during the year. We wish to mention particularly the Soil Conservation Service. This service has assigned technicians to assist individual farmers in preparing farm conservation plans and provide necessary technical assistance in getting the planned conservation practices on the land.

We wish to thank the county agent and his staff. The Production Marketing Administration (AAA), the FHA, Vo-Agriculture teachers, and Veteran Agricultural Training Program instructors, State Forestry Division and other agencies for their cooperation and assistance in soil and water conservation. We also wish to thank the Jackson Sun for very favorable news items and editorials during the year.

Attached is a Summary of Soil Conservation work accomplishments in Madison County Soil Conservation District during the year 1948.

Board of Supervisors in the Madison County Soil Conservation District are: J. Harris Smith, chairman, James S. Lawrence, secretary and treasurer, and C. O. Hopper, Neely Mayo, A. R. Buntin.

Signed:   
**J. Harris Smith, Chairman**  
**Board of Supervisors**

SUMMARY OF SOIL CONSERVATION WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE  
MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT for 1948.

	<u>1948</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Crop Rotations	12, 529 Acres	55,737 Acres
Strip Cropping	125 “	724 “
Cover Crops	9,856 “	29,516 “
Contour Farming	6,804 “	23,451 “
Woodland Improvement	5,456 “	6,026 “
Terracing	76 Miles	1,647 Miles
Terrace Outlets	19 Acres	714 Acres
Diversions	4 Miles	15 Miles
Kudzu	50 Acres	192 Acres
Sericea	140 “	2,203 “
Alfalfa & Perennial Grasses	921 “	6,856 “
Pasture Improvement	5,200 “	18,584 “
Tree Planting	23 “	46 “
Fire Breaks	0	2 Miles
Farm Drainage	1,500 Acres	9,157 Acres
Farm Ponds	37 Each	419 Each
Fishponds	35 “	150 “
Wildlife Areas	20 Acres	927 Acres