

Madison County Soil Conservation District
Jackson, Tennessee
Supervisors' Annual Report
1960

The year 1960 presented not only our ever present problems of erosion, water movement and other physical aspects of a good soil conservation program, but at the beginning of the year, it was decided by the Board of Supervisors to take one day and meet together for the purpose of considering long-range plans for Madison County's Soil Conservation Program. After careful consideration of our liabilities and assets as related to our program, it was decided that we should (1) continue to work with and sponsor watershed work, (2) attempt to adjust our land-use practices to the changing agricultural pictures as related to mechanization and labor utilization, (3) project the needs of our farms into production either as pasture or woodland, (4) particular emphasis on getting more conservation practices in the upper reaches of the watershed areas where participation has been slow.

The Board of Supervisors, composed of J. Harris Smith, Chairman; Burns Hicks, Vice Chairman; K. J. Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer; Harold McLeary, and B. H. Pentecost, Thought that Madison County would benefit most by concentrating our efforts on these long-range plans.

During the year the County Court has been very generous to the District in providing us with a new office building, giving us ample office space for our technicians. One meeting was held in which the County Judge and all the members of the County Court, along with other key personnel in the County interested in soil conservation, were invited in and each supervisor discussed some phase of the work in the County and expressed to the Court our appreciation of the generous contributions of office space and secretarial help and explaining to them how the County is repaid many times for the money spent on soil conservation in increased production as well as enhancing property values.

As an added attraction to our Soil Steward Week program, the board of supervisors' along with one of the farm contractors purchased the film "The Earth is the Lord's". We enlisted the help of local FFA Chapters once again and had approximately fifty sermons preached in Madison County and the film was shown on several occasions to various groups, schools, churches and civic organizations.

Other accomplishments during the year included: (1) 79 new district cooperators, (2) 65 farm conservation plans prepared, (3) 18 old farm plans revised and brought up-to-date, (4) 23 affiliate memberships sold to the following business firms in Jackson and Madison County: Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Seven-Up Bottling Co., Farmers Gin Co., Jackson Production Credit Association, Williams Implement Co., Blue Ribbon Co., Jackson Truck and Tractor Company, S. M. Lawrence Co., Kelley's Foods, Wallace Seed Co., Jackson Packing Company, Model Mill, Murphy Tractor Co., John H. Johnson and Sons, Wayne Feed Supply, Ashby Veneer, First National Bank, Second National Bank, and National Bank of Commerce. There are now a total of 1,484 farms in the county with farm conservation plans. This is approximately 1/2 the farms consisting of approximately 2/3 of the agricultural land in the county.

A progress report on watershed work shows:

Johnson Creek Watershed – with four of the five floodwater retarding structures now in operation, we concentrated our efforts on the land treatment measures throughout the area. Even through some goals were not met on this phase of the watershed program, progress was made. The County highway department has assured us work will be done toward controlling roadside erosion during the coming year. Permanent vegetation was established on all floodwater retarding structures and borrow areas during the year. Easements were obtained for the fifth and final structure and invitation for bides were sent out in

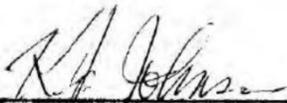
Decembers. They are to be opened in January of next year. Plans for 1961 call for increased effort for conservation practices in the headwater area of the watershed.

Meridian Creek Watershed – Priority in farm planning was given to this watershed. Progress has been satisfactory in this area also. Additional technical assistance was furnished by SCS for planning of the 145 landowners in this area; 106 are now cooperating with the district program, 97 have basic conservation plans. Tree planting on critical areas is 75 to 80 percent complete, 310 acres were set by farmers in the area during the year. Easements were obtained for two of the three flood water retarding structures. One was constructed and invitations for bids are ready for the second. It will be constructed next year. We also Emphasized land treatment measures. On some practices we reached our goals, on others we did not. Overall, we think this watershed has progressed satisfactorily.

During the year, landowner in the southern part of the county became interested in developing the Clover Creek area into an organized watershed. A watershed program would be a great benefit to this area and we are ready to give these farmers every assistance that our board can to help them in their endeavor.

The Board of Supervisors expresses their gratitude to the Soil Conservation Service for the efforts of SCS technicians headed by Clarence L. Daniels as District Conservationist. We would also like to express appreciation for the aid given the district by all SCS personnel on area and state level.

One of our board members, Mr. J. Harris Smith, was reappointed to a three year term on the board. Mr. Smith has been a member of this Board since it was organized in 1941. He has served as president of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts and is now serving as area vice-president of west Tennessee, a position he has held for several years. No man in Tennessee is more diligent in Conservation work or gives more liberally of time and talents than does our chairman and the board would like to recognize this in this our 1960 report.


K. J. Johnson / Secretary-Treasurer