

1962

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUPERVISORS ANNUAL REPORT

1962

To those people in Madison County interested in conserving the soil and making our farm land more productive, I believe it would have to be said that the year 1962 was a fruitful one. With it came the completion of many previously started projects, and, also, the beginning of others.

Again, we see the importance of organized effort in getting the job done. To demonstrate the effectiveness of but one project during the period November 1961 - February 1962, 30.2 inches of rainfall were recorded in the Johnson Creek Watershed area. With the five floodwater retarding structures completed, a high intensity rainfall of 4.2 inches on January 22, 1962 was the only time overbank flow occurred. Prior to the installation of the works of improvement in the project, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch rainfall resulted in overbank flows resulting in high damages from floodwater and sediment. About 150 acres of native low-grade pasture in the floodplain is being used for production of cotton and corn, resulting in much higher yields than from the upland on which these crops were grown. The upland has been established to grasses. About 25 acres of woodland have been cleared in the flood plain and restored to the production of row crops.

One of the sad notes of 1962 was the loss of one of the stalwarts in leadership throughout the Johnson Creek Watershed Program, Mr. James S. Lawrence. One of the best conservation farmers of the Mid-South area and active in any movement to further the work of Soil and Water Conservation, the Board of Supervisors realize that we have sustained a great loss.

The Meridian Creek Watershed saw construction begin on the third and final structure to complete the water retarding work in this project. Roadbank work on the Malesus-Medon Road was carried out and the channel was designed with work on channel improvement scheduled to be completed in 1963.

The Clover Creek Watershed was organized, consisting of land in Hardeman, Chester and Madison Counties. This group has obtained their charter, now have their permanent Board of Directors with 3 directors from Madison County, and has made their application for planning. The Madison County Soil Conservation District along with the Chester and Hardeman County Districts have paid their State and National Dues.

The Madison County District again sponsored Soil Stewardship Week, and through the cooperation of the FFA Chapters in the county, 40 sermons were preached on soil stewardship.

A new project this year was sponsored that of a land-judging contest around both 4-H Club and FFA boys of the area. This was held at the West Tennessee Experiment Station with the cooperation of the Extension Service and created a good deal of interest among the boys in knowing more about soils.

Among accomplishments during the year by Clarence Daniels, our most capable farm planner and his staff, were the addition of 75 new cooperators with 8,400 acres, 34 new farm plans with 3,774 acres, and 13 revisions of farm plans with 2,051 acres. With planning of their farms, the construction of 12,028 feet of Diversion Ditches, 8,665 feet of Drainage Construction, the construction of 44 ponds, 43,395 feet of Terraces, and 8.4 acres of Waterway Development.

During the year, the Madison District provided plans and technical assistance to the West Tennessee Experiment Station for a land shaping and drainage project on a 125 acre field adjacent the Forked Deer River on the Experiment Station farm. This formerly poorly drained field was shaped so that each row would have a constant grade. A combination drainage ditch-levy was planned at the lower end with a pipe outlet and pump that will remove excess water from this field when the Forked Deer River is up. This is a new conservation practice in this area, but it is believed to be a practice that will have potentially wide application in West Tennessee. Applied on the Experiment Station, it will be observed by farmers from a wide area.

The Board of Supervisors, consisting of J. Harris Smith, Chairman; Burns Hicks, Vice Chairman; K. J. Johnson, Secretary; Harold McLeary and L. T. Bryan would like to take this opportunity of thanking, first, Mr. Clarence Daniels and his staff, Mr. D. F. Luckey, Mr. Ralph Sasser, and all Soil Conservation personnel who have furthered the program of Soil Conservation in Madison County in 1962. Especially, would we like to thank the business establishments who have contributed to the success of the program through purchase of affiliate membership. They are:

First National Bank
Second National Bank
National Bank of Commerce
Jackson Truck & Tractor Company
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
Ashby Veneer Lumber Company
Madison County Lime Company
Southgate Milling Company
John H. Johnson & Sons
Jackson Packing Company
L. M. Wilson Gin
C. T. Jones Gin Company
Dr. Pepper Bottling Company
Wallace Seed Company
Madison Farmers Co-op
Sadler Oil Company
W. B. Kirby
Jackson Production Credit Association

Chairman