

1963

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS ANNUAL REPORT
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The Madison County Soil Conservation District Program progressed very satisfactorily again this year. Farmers within the county are doing a better job of conservation farming each year, and are taking advantage of the technical assistance of our technicians.

In addition to requests being made by farmers, we are being called upon more and more to assist land users who are not engaged in farming. This points out very clearly our needs for reviewing and up-dating our long range District Program which we are now in the process.

We now have a total of 1,837 District Cooperators owning 228,981 acres; 1,480 farmers owning 182,830 acres have developed Basic Farm Conservation Plans. During 1963, we obtained 45 new District Cooperators, owning 5,791 acres of farmland in the county. Twenty-one farmers developed basic conservation plans, and ten farmers with old plans were revised and brought up-to-date.

Application of conservation practices were about normal for the District. Dry weather and ideal harvest season possibly slowed down establishment or practices to some extent.

The need for new aerial photographs and soils mapping was brought to the attention of Mr. J. R. Sasser, State Conservationist. Aerial photos for the county were obtained and new soils mapping was started on individual farm basis; 4,851 acres were mapped during the year.

During the year work was continued on the land forming job at the West Tennessee Experiment Station. This work, started in 1962, is a cooperative project between the Experiment Station, University of Tennessee, Soil Conservation Service and our District Program. The job includes landforming of 123 acres of bottom land, drainage ditches, levees, flap gates and pumping station.

Again this year we assisted in the FFA and 4H land judging contest, sponsored Soil Stewardship Week in cooperation with FFA Chapters and agricultural teachers in high schools within the county. We purchased supplies for distribution to local ministers and conducted the information and educational work for this observance. Approximately 56 sermons were preached on soil stewardship.

Roadsigns (6) were purchased and installed on the remaining major highways leading into and out of the county.

Special work to aid low-income farmers in the two organized watersheds and in the District was carried on during the year. The three year fertilizer demonstration project started in 1962 was continued this year. This project is a cooperative effort between the District, T.V.A., University of Tennessee, Tennessee A & I University, and the Soil Conservation Service. It will continue during 1964.

We have what we consider a good information and educational program. Our Work Unit Conservationist has a weekly radio program on WTJS, and a weekly news article in the local newspaper. We have occasional television program during the year.

The Madison District is a member of the State, and National Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors. State and National dues were paid 100%. Our District has been 100% in paying State and National dues since it was organized.

Finances to meet our annual budget of approximately \$800 are obtained through the sale of affiliate memberships to local business firms. We are grateful for this support which enables us to carry out a well rounded conservation program for the people of Madison County. The County Court appropriates annually \$1,000 to our District for the purpose of hiring a part-time secretary. Mrs. Fred Webb was our secretary during the year. The County Court also furnished the District with fine office space in the County office building free of charge; for this we are very grateful.

The two organized watersheds in Madison County, of which we are co-sponsors, are now nearing completion. PL-566 Small Watershed Program has been of great benefit to our county. During the operation of these watersheds much soil and water conservation work has been done.

Channel improvement in Johnson Creek Watershed was completed during the year with the exception of vegetation. Roadbank stabilization work was done on an additional 2.87 miles of improved roads. This work was accomplished by the Directors furnishing materials, the County Highway Department furnishing labor, and the SCS personnel supervising the work. Farmers throughout the watershed continue to contribute to the overall watershed program by installing needed soil and water conservation practices. Since the major works of improvement have been completed, farmers owning bottom land are taking advantage of these improvements by proper and full utilization of fertile valleys that once overflowed with each two inch rain. It is anticipated that this project, the first in operation in Tennessee, will be completed by June 1964.

The third and final floodwater retarding structure in the Meridian Creek Watershed was completed during the year. The work plan was amended to include the stabilization of 66 acres of critical area where pine could not be planted. This work was accomplished by dozing in the gullies and establishing the areas in Bermudagrass and Sericea. In addition to this work, roadbank stabilization work was done on an additional 1.4 miles of improved roads in the area. The only major work of improvement remaining to be done in the Meridian Creek Watershed is channel improvement. It is scheduled for construction during 1964.

The Board of Directors and the local people in these PL-566 Watersheds have worked hard to accomplish the planned work. We want to congratulate them for the fine job they have done. The Board of Supervisors are proud of the watershed work in our District, and are pleased to have had the opportunity to co-sponsor these projects.

The Clover Creek Watershed, consisting of land in Chester, Hardeman, and Madison counties, was organized in 1962 and is waiting to be planned.

This report would not be complete unless we recognized some of the people that have worked hard to make our conservation program a success.

First, we want to thank Clarence Daniels, our Work Unit Conservationist, and his staff; Mr. D. F. Luckey, Area Conservationist; Mr. Ralph Sasser, State Conservationist; and all SCS personnel who have furthered the program of soil and water conservation in Madison County in 1963.

Again we would like to thank the business firms who contributed to the success of the program through the purchase of affiliate memberships.

This report is respectfully submitted by the Board of Supervisors: Harold McLeary Harold McLeary; Louis T. Bryan Louis T. Bryan; K. J. Johnson K. J. Johnson Secretary and Treasurer; Burns Hicks Burns Hicks Vice Chairman; and J. Harris Smith J. Harris Smith Chairman.