

Madison County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Annual Report
1964

The year 1964 was an important one for the Madison County Soil Conservation District. We were pleased with the accomplishments, yet we realize that we need to do more. There is a great need for vision, planning, and making certain that our great heritage of good soils and bountiful production are to be properly maintained for the benefit of mankind.

During 1964, the Board up-dated the District program. The Madison district was organized in 1941. The Board felt that a new program should be developed in order to keep abreast of the changes being made in modern-day agricultural systems. With the splendid cooperation of local agricultural agencies and leaders, the new program was developed. It was submitted to the State Conservationist and the Secretary of Agriculture for approval in November.

Accomplishments during the year were many: 60 farmers owning 6,984 acres became new District Cooperators. 44 farmers developed basic farm conservation plans. Our total number of District Cooperators is 1,881. They own 235,566 acres. 1,524 farmers owning 187,754 acres now have basic farm conservation plans developed with technical assistance of Soil Conservation Service Personnel. Also during the year some 15 farmers revised and up-dated their farm plans.

Obtaining new District Cooperators and farm planning was done at a uniform rate during the year.

Soils mapping on individual farms continued during the year. An additional 3,212 acres were mapped.

Requests for application of conservation practices were about normal for the District. Excellent weather conditions from late summer until winter made for ideal harvest conditions. This resulted in possibly fewer conservation practices being established during that season.

142 ACP referrals were received from the ASCS Office during the year for servicing by our Technicians. Referrals were for farm ponds, terraces, diversion ditches, sod waterways, and contour strip-cropping. All referrals were serviced during the year.

The two organized watershed programs progressed very satisfactorily. All major works of improvement were completed with the establishment of kudzu on channel banks in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Court Hearings were held and taxes set up during the year. An FHA Loan was obtained by the watershed. Critical area stabilization was completed in the Meridian Creek Watershed. The Board of Directors obtained all channel easements and awarded a contract for the planned channel improvement work. This job will complete all major works of improvement planned for this watershed.

We again sponsored Soil Stewardship Week here in Madison County and Obtained, what we consider, excellent results. Forty-nine sermons were preached. FFA Chapters and Vocational Agriculture Teachers in the three high schools in the County assisted with contacting ministers and distributing material obtained from the NACD.

Further work was done on the land forming job at the West Tennessee Experiment Station. Our Technicians assisted with planning and establishing this job.

We again co-sponsored the fertilization demonstration project conducted in the Johnson Creek Watershed. This was the third and final year for this project. Results were gratifying.

The Madison District is a member of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and Watershed Directors, we are also a member of NACD. State and National dues are paid 100 percent each year at the January meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

During the year we sponsored or co-sponsored several tours. This year Under Secretary of Agriculture, Charles S. Murphy was here and spoke to a large group of Supervisors, Watershed Directors and friends of

Soil Conservation Districts. Earlier in the year Deputy Under-Secretary of Agriculture Dr. Alfred Edward was here to see some of the work done by low income farmers.

Finances to meet our annual expenditures comes from the County Court and from business firms that support our program through the purchase of affiliated memberships. The County Court provides excellent office space for our personnel. It appropriates money for secretarial help. During the year the Court increased the appropriation from \$1,000 to \$2,400 annually for secretarial help. Instead of a part time secretary we are now able to employ a secretary on a full time basis. We are grateful for the financial assistance both from the County Court and the business firms that purchase affiliate memberships. We are also thankful that they recognize our program as being important enough to warrant their support.

We feel that we have a very good informational and educational program. It consists of regular news articles in the agricultural section of "The Jackson Sun", occasional news releases and feature articles. Weekly radio programs on WTJS. Occasional TV Programs on the daily farm program on WDXI-TV, and spot announcements by all three radio stations and the TV station.

One of the sad notes of 1964 was the loss of a member of our Board, K. J. Johnson. Kenneth served on the Board of Supervisors continuously since January, 1954. He was appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee. Kenneth was an outstanding farmer and civic leader. During the time of the "Save-Enrich-Our Soil Contest", he won the sweepstakes award for the owner-operator division. We have already missed Kenneth and will continue to miss him in the future. John S. Smith of the Neely Community was appointed to fill the vacancy created by his death.

C. W. Tomlin, Conservation Aid in our District retired during the year due to a health condition. Bill started to work in our District in 1943 and served in the capacity of part-time worker and then as a full time Conservation Aid. We will miss his services.

During the year we held an election of Supervisors. The terms of all elected members expired at the end of the year. The election was held and two new farmers were elected to the Board. The Board for 1965 will be composed of J. Harris Smith, Harold McLeary, John S. Smith, Arthur Johnson, and J. B. Spencer.

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: D. F. Luckey, Area Conservationist; Mr. J. R. Sasser, State Conservationist, and all SCS Personnel, and other agricultural agencies who have helped to further the program of Soil and Water Conservation in Madison County in 1964.

Again we would like to express our thanks to the business firms who contributed to the success of the program through the purchase of affiliate memberships, and the County Court.

This annual report is respectfully submitted by the Board of Supervisors.


John S. Smith
Secretary-Treasurer


J. Harris Smith
Chairman of the Board