

1965

Madison County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Annual Report
1965

The year 1965 was an excellent one for agriculture in Madison County. Weather conditions were excellent and the majority of farmers produced high yields of cotton, corn, soybeans, and other field crops. Hay and pasture production were also good during the year.

The Board of Supervisors was pleased with the accomplishments of the District Program. This report is submitted for the purpose of informing cooperators of the SCD, Agricultural Agencies, and the general public of the progress made through our District Program.

Fifty one farmers owning 5,734 acres became new District Cooperators. Thirty nine farmers owning 3,517 acres developed basic farm conservation plans. Twenty one revised and brought their old farm plans up to date. The number of district cooperators now total 1,912. They own 235,911 acres. A total of 1,552 farmers owning 188,776 now have basic farm conservation plans developed with technical assistance of Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Technical assistance to cooperators in farm planning is considered by the Board to be one of the most important services made available to farmers through the District Program. This work is planned and goals are set each year.

Soils mapping on individual farms continued during 1965. We are hopeful of getting a modern soil survey for Madison County in the near future.

Requests for field layout and survey of soil and water conservation practices continued about normal. Requests for technical assistance by non-farm people increased during the year. We again furnished the West Tennessee Experiment Station assistance for work started prior to 1965.

A total of 1148 referrals were received from the ASCS office. Referrals were for: farm ponds, terraces, sod waterways, and diversion ditches. Of this number received, 100 practices were laid out and 72 were completed according to specifications.

During the year 369 different landowners and operators were assisted. Services provided on conservation planning and applications totaled 1,069, and 379 landowners and operators applied one or more conservation practice on their farm.

The Small Watershed Program under PL-566 has been important to Madison County and to the SOD. The Johnson Creek Watershed Project which began operation in 1956 was brought to a successful completion during 1965. The Meridian Creek Watershed, also located in our District, made progress. Channel improvement work was completed during the year. It is anticipated that this watershed will also be successfully completed in early 1966.

The District Board sponsored Soil Stewardship Week throughout the County. FFA Chapters and Vocation Agricultural Teachers again cooperated in this program. They helped with the distribution of material to churches and ministers in the County. Our best count shows 40 sermons preached on Soil Stewardship.

During 1965 we continued to work with Minority groups, especially in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Follow-up was made on all participants of the three year fertilizer demonstration project which was completed in 1964.

The Madison Board has always supported the Tennessee Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and Watershed Directors, and the NACD.

We again sponsored several watershed tours. It was the Board's privilege to co-sponsor, with the State Association, a watershed tour and dedication ceremony of the Johnson Creek Watershed. This was a big event for our watershed and Soil Conservation District Program. Many distinguished people

attended and took part in this event. Among them were: Mr. Don Williams, Administrator of the SCS from Washington, Mr. J. R. Sasser, our SCS State Conservationist, Senator Ross Bass, The late J. Eldridge Price, President of the TASCOD, Dr. Henry L. Taylor, then a member of the USDA Public Advisory Committee on Soil and Water Conservation and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics at A&I University, Senator Cuyler Dunbar, Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee, Carl Peterson, State Forester of Tennessee, John S. Wilder, Treasurer, NACD, Leroy Pope, County Judge, and George Smith, Jackson Mayor.

Our Informational program consists of regular news articles published each week in the "Jackson Sun" daily newspaper. Radio programs were carried each week by Radio Station WTJS. Soil and Water Conservation spot announcements were carried by the three Radio Stations and the TV Station in Jackson, and an occasional live TV program.

Finances to meet our annual budget of approximately \$800 is obtained through the sale of affiliate memberships to local business firms. The County provides our office space and appropriates \$2,000 a year for the salary of a full time secretary. We appreciate this fine support. It enables us to develop and carry out a well rounded soil and water conservation program.

The relations between agricultural agencies, leaders, and organizations in Jackson and Madison County are excellent.

G. M. Spencer, Conservation Aid in our District retired at the end of the year because of poor health. He has been a faithful worker over the years and his services will be greatly missed.

Also during the year we lost some men that have played important roles in the development and success of our District Program. G. W. Hillsman, County Agent retired after 30 years of service with the Extension Service.

Mr. Hillsman was instrumental in the organization of the Madison District. John Hastings, County Office Manager of the ASCS retired because of poor health. J. L. Collins, Watershed Director of the Johnson Creek Watershed District, and A.M. Dobbins, Negro County Agent died during 1965.

Clarence Daniels continues as our Work Unit Conservationist, Frank Richardson as Soil Conservationist, D. F. Luckey, Area Conservationist, and Mr. J. R. Sasser, State Conservationist. We appreciate the fine work by our SCS Technicians and the fine cooperation and help from our Area and State Conservationist.

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

"Continuous Service to the people of Jackson and Madison County Since 1941."

J. Harris Smith
Chairman of the Board

Members of the Board of Supervisors

Harold McLeary John S. Smith
Arthur Johnson J. B. Spencer
 J. Harris Smith

Members of Johnson Creek Watershed Board of Directors

Crawford Long Swanee Lawrence
B. L. Gilmore John S. Smith

Members of Meridian Creek Watershed Board of Directors

Mrs. A. V. Patten Lawrence Namney
John B. Morris Roy Parker
 G. H. Benson

NOTE: Faye Floyd was hired as District Secretary in the fall of 1965.