

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS ANNUAL REPORT
1966

I. Organization:

The Madison County Soil Conservation District was organized in September 1941. The District is governed by a board of five supervisors. Supervisors of the District are : J. Harris Smith, Harold McLeary, John S. Smith, Arthur Johnson, and J. B. Spencer. Three supervisors are elected by landowners throughout the county. The other two are appointed by the Tennessee Soil Conservation Committee.

Meetings were held regularly on the second Tuesday morning of each month until November. The regular monthly meeting was changed to the second Monday night of each month.

The Madison County Court provides office space and a full-time secretary for the District. Technicians are provided by the Soil Conservation Service.

II. Progress and Accomplishments:

A. Watersheds: Johnson Creek Watershed was completed in 1965 as far as the operational phase is concerned. Directors of the watershed Districts still have maintenance responsibility for this project. They are doing an excellent job of maintenance on the five lakes and the creek channel in this project.

Meridian Creek Watershed is still in the operational stage but practically all the works of improvement have been completed. We anticipate the completion of this project in 1967. Directors of this watershed are also doing an excellent job of maintenance on the three lakes and the creek channel.

Clover Creek Watershed, which is partly in the Madison District and partly in the Chester and Hardeman Districts is awaiting assistance in the development of a work plan for their watershed project.

B. Soil Stewardship: The District sponsored the observance of soil stewardship week by providing approximately 60 ministers throughout the county with materials and information. Several sermons were delivered on soil stewardship. Mr. James Bullock, minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson won second place in the contest sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts.

C. Support of TACD and NACD: Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Smith represented the Madison District at the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention which was held in New Orleans in February.

The Madison District was represented at the annual convention of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts by three supervisors and their wives - Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Harold McLeary and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spencer.

We paid dues to both the Tennessee and National Associations of Conservation Districts early in the year.

D. Affiliate Members of the Madison Soil Conservation Districts: Supervisors of the District prepared a list of prospective affiliate members of the District and contacted them. Thirty seven businessmen and organizations were active affiliate members of the District in 1966. It would be impossible for us to carry on the District program without the financial support of these members.

E. Conservation Accomplishments: The accomplishments listed below are four of the things that we think need special emphasis. Many other conservation practices were applied.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Feet</u>
New District Cooperators	35	3485	
Farm Conservation Plans	32	2393	
Revision of Farm Conservation Plans	16	3471	
Basic Conservation Plans for Other Than Farms	1	44	
Cooperators Receiving Technical Assistance	244		
Cooperators Applying One or More Practices	198		
Diversion Terraces			15,879
Grassed Waterways		17.4	
Pasture and Hayland Establishment		2058	
Parallel Terraces			14,100
Tree Planting		38	

III. Remaining Conservation Needs in the District: It is almost an impossible task to determine the remaining conservation needs in the District. Conservation of soil and water is a continuing process rather than something that is accomplished one time and lasts forever. We will break the conservation needs into parts and deal with each part separately.

A. Cropland: The acreage devoted to the production of row crops is increasing every year due largely to economic conditions. Most of the increase is on class IV and VI land. Many of the conservation practices that have been applied in past years, such as conventional terraces are being destroyed.

The trend is to long straight rows. Soil losses are excessive on most of this "marginal" cropland. Soil losses are also excessive on some of the hill land that has been devoted to row crop production for years. Conservation practices needed are : row crop-grass rotations, contour farming, parallel terraces, diversions, grassed waterways, contour stripcropping, crop residue use and winter cover crops.

B. Pasture and Hayland: Pasture and hay crops in Madison County provide enough ground cover to hold soil losses to low levels. Management of pasture and hayland is not adequate for profitable yields. More land should be devoted to improved pasture and hayland. Management practices needed include liming and fertilization according to soil test recommendations, brush and weed control and proper grazing.

C. Woodland: Approximately 15,000 acres in Madison County are gullied or extremely steep. These areas are best suited to woodland and should be reforested. Most of these areas are best adapted to pine but selected areas could be planted to hardwoods. There is very little management of woodlands for maximum production.

D. Urban and Built Up Areas: Roadbanks, sub-divisions and other built-up areas contribute heavily to the sediment problem in streams and on bottom-land. Many of the county roadbanks have been stabilized through the Watershed Projects. Plants used on roadbanks to stop erosion require maintenance if they are to continue to be effective. Other roadbanks in the county should be shaped and established to perennial plants to reduce the amount of sedimentation.

A growing conservation problem for the District supervisors is to educate the public and developers in particular of stabilizing developed areas as soon as possible.

IV. Equipment and Machinery Available:

Private contractors own and operate various kinds of equipment that is necessary for installation of conservation practices. Cooperators have no difficulty in securing the services of needed equipment.

V. Sources and Amounts of Assistance:

The Soil Conservation Service made several changes in technicians assigned to the District during 1966. At the beginning of the year Clarence L. Daniels was our Work Unit Conservationist and Frank Richardson was Soil Conservationist assisting him. Larry D. Goff, Soil Conservationist, was assigned to the District in February. Frank Richardson was transferred to Murfreesboro in June. Clint Jordan, Conservation Technician, was transferred to the Madison District from the Crockett District in June. In November Clarence Daniels was promoted to Area Conservationist in Johnson City, Tennessee. Billy F. Headden replaced Clarence as Work Unit Conservationist.

The Madison County Court provided money for a full time secretary and office space.

Many others provided assistance in carrying out the District Program.

VI. Information and Education:

The District has a regular news article each week in The Jackson Sun and a regular radio program on station WTJS. Spot announcements are used by

radio stations WTJS and WDXI. Spot announcements and slides prepared and distributed by the Soil Conservation Service are used by television station WDXI. Many programs were presented during the year to garden clubs, youth groups and other organizations.

VII. Madison County Soil Survey:

Soil Scientists began work on the Soil Survey of Madison County during 1966. We are especially proud of this. We feel that the Madison County Soil Survey will be of great value to the county.

VIII. Current Interest and Workload:

Interest in soil and water conservation among farmers and the public is good. Application for technical assistance in developing farm conservation plans is greater than the technicians' ability to provide this assistance. Applications for assistance in layout, design and supervision of construction of individual conservation practices is at about the same rate as in other recent years.

IX. Finances of the District:


On Deposit January 1, 1966		\$1,299.28
Receipts During Year		3,270.00
Affiliate Members	\$ 725.00	
Cold Drink Box	115.00	
Madison County Court	2400.00	
Sale of Old Typewriter	30.00	
Funds Available in 1966		<u>\$4,569.28</u>

Expenditures:

District Secretary - Faye Floyd	\$2062.40
Director of Internal Revenue	236.40
Social Security	201.60

TACD & NACD Dues	180.00
Expense of Supervisors at TACD and NACD Convention	341.92
Affiliate Membership Certificates	6.25
Postage Stamps	53.40
1965 Annual Report Brochures	45.00
Soil Stewardship Material	47.50
Fertilizer for Roadbank Trial Planting	14.00
Typewriter	214.65
Subscriptions to Soil Conservation Magazine	8.75
Set of America the Beautiful Pictures	5.00
Office Desk	26.00
Camera	150.00

Total Expenditures	\$2,592.87
On Deposit December 31, 1966	\$ 976.41


J. HARRIS SMITH
Chairman of the Board

Members of the Board of Supervisors

J. Harris Smith
Harold McLeary

J. B. Spencer

John S. Smith
Arthur Johnson