

Madison County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Annual Report
1967

I. Introduction

The year 1967 was an unusual one for agriculture in Madison County. Wet cool weather during the spring months delayed planting. The cotton crop was the poorest that has been produced for many years. Other crops including corn, soybeans, vegetables and pastures were good. There were no dry periods of as long as two weeks duration during the growing season.

Heavy rains in May caused so much damage that row crops had to be replanted. Heavy rains throughout the year proved the need for and the effectiveness of conservation practices.

II. Organization

The Madison County Soil Conservation District is governed by a board of Supervisors. They are: J. Harris Smith - Chairman, Harold McLeary - Vice-Chairman; John S. Smith - Secretary-Treasurer, Arthur Johnson Sr., and J. B. Spencer - members. Faye Floyd, District Secretary.

The board of supervisors held regular monthly business meetings on the second Monday night.

III. Progress and Accomplishments

A. Watersheds:

1. The directors of Johnson Creek Watershed are doing an excellent job of maintenance. Heavy rains in May again proved the effectiveness of this project. It was one of the very few creeks in West Tennessee that did not overflow its banks.
2. Directors of Meridian Creek Watershed are also doing an excellent job of maintenance. Rains in May proved the need for more channel work on this project. A supplement to the work plan was developed in

October 1967 to include channel work from Harts Bridge Road to the south fork of Forked Deer River. We anticipate the completion of this project in 1968.

3. Directors of the Clover Creek Watershed District held special meetings during the year. They anticipate assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in developing a work plan in 1968. Land treatment in Madison County portion of the watershed is being emphasized. Twenty-three acres of active gullies were planted to loblolly pine seedlings in December.

B. Conservation Accomplishments

<u>Conservation Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Feet</u>
New District Cooperators	41	7475	
Farm Conservation Plans	15	1965	
Conservation Plans for Other Than Farms	1	32	
Farm Conservation Plans Revised	11	1493	
Cooperators Receiving Technical Assistance	328		
Cooperators Applying One or More Conservation Practices	168		
ACP Referrals Served	118		
Parallel Terraces			17,700
Tree Planting on Gullied Land		157	
on Other Areas		123	
Pasture and Hayland Establishment		496	

C. Soil Survey

At the end of 1967 soil scientists had completed mapping on 77,396 acres. There is a total of 359,000 acres in the county. Field work was started on the survey in 1966. We would like for this work to progress

more rapidly because we feel that a published soil survey report will be invaluable to Jackson and Madison County.

D. Soil Stewardship

Supervisors of the District bought 3,500 place mats with Soil Stewardship messages printed on them and distributed them to restaurants in Madison County. The place mats were used during Soil Stewardship Week.

E. Support of TACD and NACD

The Madison County Soil Conservation District paid dues to both the state and national association of Districts.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Smith represented the Madison District at the convention of the National Association in Cincinnati, Ohio February 5-9.

F. Affiliate Membership

Twenty-five businessmen and organizations were active affiliate members of the District in 1967. They contribute \$25 annually to the District. Without this help it would be impossible for us to carry out a program of Soil and Water Conservation. Each affiliate member will receive a copy of the 1967 annual report in leaflet form which is being printed by NACD's Service Department.

IV. Remaining Conservation Needs

A. Cropland

1. Madison County has approximately 120,000 acres of bottomland that is either being used for intensive row crop production or could be put to such use with adequate conservation treatment. Needed conservation treatment ranges from flood prevention to simple drainage practices.
2. There is approximately 100,000 acres of hill land in the county that are being used for row crop production annually or in rotation with grasses and legumes. Conservation needs vary greatly on this land because the land itself varies greatly. Conservation practices must

be applied on this land to keep silt from polluting streams and for the hill land itself to remain productive.

Conservation practices needed include: grassed waterways, diversions terraces, contour farming, crop residue use, cover and green manure crops and grasses and legumes in rotation with row crops.

B. Pasture and Hayland

Pasture and hayland is not being managed in such a way as to make the most profit for the farmers. Management of livestock is also essential.

The greatest needs on pasture and hayland are: liming and fertilizing according to soil test recommendations, brush and weed control and rotational grazing. These practices coupled with proper livestock management will accomplish soil and water conservation and will enable livestock farmers to realize a profit.

C. There is over 100,000 acres in Madison County in woodland. To many land-owners think of this as wasteland. Management for sustained production is needed on the entire acreage. The services of professional foresters are available from the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

There is still over 3,000 acres of active gullies in Madison County that should be stabilized by planting pine seedlings.

D. Other Conservation Needs

Great amounts of silt is contributed to our problem of clogged streams and rivers, on roads and road ditches, on farmland and other places where it is unwanted and expensive to remove. The source of this silt is developing sub-divisions, factory sites, shopping centers, roadbanks and other developments that we consider "the signs of progress." One of our greatest needs is to inform public officials, contractors and others of this problem and to methods of solving it.

V. 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.

VI. Sources and Amounts of Assistance

- A. The Madison County Court provided funds for a full time secretary and provide the District with office space. The District's secretary is Mrs. Faye Floyd. Each member of the County Court will receive a copy of the 1967 annual report in leaflet form which is being printed by NACD's Service Department.
- B. The Soil Conservation Service provided technicians to carry out the technical phases of our program. Billy F. Headden - Work Unit Conservationist, Larry D. Goff - Soil Conservationist and Clint E. Jordan - Conservation Technician, were assigned to the Madison District. Earnest Oneal Gray, a student at Tennessee A and I University, worked as a student trainee during the summer.
- C. Many other agencies and individuals provided various kinds and amounts of assistance.

VII. Information and Education

A news article was published each week in the Jackson Sun. Photographs were used to help tell the Conservation story. This regular news article has been very effective.

Radio Station WTJS broadcast a 5 minute program twice each week. This program is very effective in reaching the public.

Spot announcements have been used regularly throughout the year by the three radio stations - WTJS, WDXI, and WJAK.

The Soil Conservation Service provided color slides and spot announcements to television station WBBJ. These were used regularly and effectively

throughout the year.

VIII. Current Interest and Workload

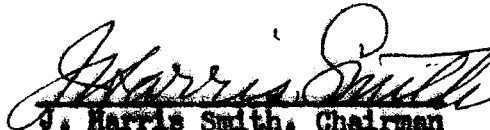
Application for assistance in developing farm conservation plans is great. There is an increase in applications for assistance in planning and applying practices which will facilitate the use of multiple-row equipment.

IX. Finances of the District

On Deposit January 1, 1967		\$1062.21
Receipts During Year		3515.00
Affiliate Members	\$ 625.00	
Drink Box	40.00	
Madison County Court	2850.00	
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		\$4,577.21

Expenditures:

District Secretary	\$2308.80	
Director of Internal Revenue	272.40	
Social Security	237.60	
Administrative Cost	.60	
TACD & NACD Dues	180.00	
Expense of Supervisors at NACD Convention	94.01	
Postage Stamps	20.00	
Soil Stewardship Material	53.50	
Water Cooler Repair	9.00	
Wilson-Geyer Company	11.34	
NACD - Stationery	27.75	
Dinner for Supervisors at Winter Annual Meeting	10.00	
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Total Expenditures		\$3225.00
On Deposit December 31, 1967		\$1352.21


J. Harris Smith, Chairman
Madison SOD

Members of the Board of Supervisors

J. Harris Smith
Harold McLeary

John S. Smith
Arthur Johnson

J. B. Spencer