

Madison County Soil Conservation District
Supervisors Annual Report
1968

I. Introduction

Weather was close to normal in Madison County in 1968. Rainfall over most of the county was adequate through the first half of August. Hot, dry weather for more than a month in August and September reduced production of agricultural crops. 1968 was a record year so far as building was concerned-highways, factories, schools and homes. Procedures used in site preparation and treatment before and during construction, cause great losses of soil by erosion resulting in sediment deposits on streets, yards, road ditches, etc.

II. Organization

The Madison County Soil Conservation District is governed by a board of Supervisors. For 1968 they were: 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. This watershed project continues to be an example of conservation. Many people visited it during 1968.
2. Directors of Meridian Creek Watershed are also doing an excellent job of maintenance. They hope to complete the project during 1969.

3. Directors of the Clover Creek Watershed District are anticipating assistance in the development of a work plan in 1969. Land treatment in the Madison County portion of the watershed was emphasized in 1968. Ninety five acres of active gullies were planted to loblolly pine seedlings in December.

B. Conservation Accomplishments.

Some of the conservation practices established in 1968 are listed below:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Feet</u>
New District Cooperators	30	9576	
Farm Conservation Plans	27	7550	
Farm Conservation Revised	21	3012	
Cooperators Applying one or More Conservation Practices	241		
Cooperators Receiving Technical Assistance	426		
ACP Referrals Serviced	84		
Tree Planting		321	
Drainage Land Grading		60	
Grade Stabilization Structures	2		
Grassed Waterways		17	
Pastures and Hayland Planting		1334	
Parallel Terraces			13,490

C. Soil Survey

Soil scientists have completed 125,579 acres in Madison County. Total acreage in the county is 359,000.

D. Soil Stewardship

The District again provided 3,500 place mats for restaurants in the county. These place mats were imprinted with a conservation message.

E. Support of TACD and NACD

The Madison County Soil Conservation District paid to both National and Tennessee Associations of Conservation Districts. Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Smith and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spencer represented Madison County at the annual TACD Convention in Nashville in December.

F. Affiliate Membership

Nineteen businessmen and organizations were active Affiliate Members of the District in 1968. Without their financial help, it would be impossible for us to carry out a program of Soil and Water Conservation.

IV. Remaining Conservation Needs

The concept of conservation being applied once and for all does not fit the actual situation in Madison County. Land that was in perennial pastures a few years ago (and thus adequately treated) is now in row crops or is being developed for residential, commercial or community facilities.

Major conservation needs of today fall into 3 broad groups:

- A. Developing Areas: This includes roads, highways, residential areas, and commercial areas - especially during development. Jackson is a fast growing city. Erosion and sedimentation is great during and immediately after development.

The District has not been successful in solving this problem.

- B. Cropland: Acreage of row crops has increased greatly (approximately 35,000 acres) in the last five years. Much of the increased acreage is on sloping land on which erosion is excessive under present use.

We are promoting parallel terraces, sod planting, contour farming, crop residue use, cover crops and crop rotations on such land. The only solution for part of this land is to reestablish perennial grasses and legumes.

Much of our cropland is being farmed according to conservation principles. We think the trend back to perennial grasses and legumes will begin within the next two years because of declining soybean prices.

- C. Gullied Land: Approximately 3,000 acres of Madison County is still in deep, active gullies. We are closing in on this problem through the special tree planting program. In 1968, 280 acres of eroding gullies were planted to loblolly pine. In 1967, 200 acres were planted.

V. Equipment and Machinery Available:

There is a shortage of dirt moving equipment of the type needed to build out and fill terraces; land grading for drainage and other similar equipment. Two District cooperators have bought pans that can be pulled with rubber-tired farm tractors. More private contractors with this type of equipment are needed.

Cooperators have no difficulty in securing the services of private contractors for other conservation practices.

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 for 1968 was Mrs. Faye Floyd.
- B. The Soil Conservation Service provided Technicians to carry out the technical phases of our program. Billy F. Headden - Work Unit Conservationist, Larry D. Geff - Soil Conservationist and Clint E. Jordan - Conservation Technician were assigned to the district throughout 1968. Charles R. Leslie, a student at U. T. Martin worked as a student trainee during the summer.

C. The Madison County ASCS Committee provided funds for cost sharing on the tree planting project in addition to funds for cost sharing on other conservation practices.

D. Others who provided assistance are too numerous to name.

VII. Information and Education:

A. General: A news article was published each week in the Jackson Sun.

Photographs were used effectively.

Radio Station WTJS broadcast a 5 minute program twice each week.

Spot announcements provided by the Soil Conservation Service have been used regularly throughout the year by the three radio stations. WTJS, WDKI and WJAK.

The Soil Conservation Service also provided color slides and spot announcements to television station WBBJ.

B. Information to Youth: Programs and Conservation field trips were planned and presented by technicians assigned to the District. Field trips were conducted for Kindergarten and one for a scout troop.

Programs were presented to young people in Junior High School.

The Madison County Soil Conservation District cooperated with the North Side High School Vocational Agriculture Department in hosting the district FFA land judging contest.

VIII. Current Interest and Workland:

Interest in assistance provided by the District is good. Requests for assistance are increasing in some phases of the program.


Great interest in the soil survey has been shown by land users and planners. Requests for assistance in developing farm conservation plans and in planning and applying practices that will facilitate the use of multiple-row equipment is on the increase.

IX. Finances of the District

On Deposit January 1, 1968		1,352.21
Receipts During Year		2,780.00
Affiliate Members	475.00	
Drink Box	55.00	
Madison County Court	2,250.00	
(750.00 received from County Court for First Quarter reported on deposit Jan. 1, 1968)		4,132.21

Expenditures:

District Secretary	2,451.80	
Director of Internal Revenue	232.20	
U.S. Post Office	30.00	
Dept. of Old Age and Survivors Insurance.	198.45	
NACD and TACD Expense	364.65	
Affiliate Membership Cards	6.00	
Cash (Dinner for Supervisors Winter and Summer)	32.00	
Cash (refund to Madison Co. fund for stamps)	6.00	
Total Expenditures		3,321.10
On Deposit December 31, 1968		811.11


J. Harris Smith
Chairman of the Board

Members of the Board of Supervisors

J. Harris Smith
Harold McLeary

John S. Smith
Arthur Johnson

J. B. Spencer