

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
FOR  
1972

Nineteen and seventy-two was a year for weather extremes and its resultant conservation problems. Frequent rains hampered farming operations as well as all other types of work of a soil oriented nature. Official reporting stations measured some 66 inches of rain during the last 12 months in Madison County. Many acres of crops, especially cotton and soybeans, were lost or severely damaged as a result of these untimely rains. Some 60% of the soybean crop and about 40% of the cotton production was unharvested at years end.

New conservation practices played an important part in the Districts program this year. Underground drainage using the new plastic tubing and parallel terracing with underground pipe outlets made good advances as is evidenced by the production data shown later in this report.

The District further broadened its concept of assistance to clients this year. In addition to it's long time assistance to farmers, the District with its technical assistants provided inventories and evaluations to individuals, groups of people, and various units of local government. Our most extensive assistance of this type was to the Jackson Regional Planning Commission. We provided soils maps along interpretations listing soils limitations for six selected non-agricultural uses for an area reaching some two miles in all directions from the Jackson-Madison County Airport. This information is being used in an environs study of the airport area.

Jackson and Madison County continued its rapid growth pace this year. Residential, commercial and industrial development saw a good year in 1972, Naturally, these developments do much to increase the already taxing pollution and environmental problems of the area. In view of these facts, our district will continue to promote interim conservation measures on these developing areas as a means of preserving the environment.

Our board of supervisors continued to work in leading the conservation effort in Madison County. We held regularly scheduled meetings each month last year. Our board for 1972 had as its supervisors: John S. Smith, Chairman; Harold McLeary, Vice-Chairman; J. B. Spencer, Secretary-Treasurer; J. R. Azbill and Franklin James, Members. John S. Smith also served as Vice-Director for TACD Area 8.

The Rural Environmental Assistance Program added to our actual on-the-ground accomplishments greatly. We are proud of our conservation achievements. Listed below for your information are some of our more significant accomplishments.

Job	Number	Amount
REAP Referrals serviced	153	
Diversion channels installed		3,850 ft.
Underground drainage installed		30,380 ft.
Main or lateral surface drains installed		600 ft.
Grade stabilization structures built	1	
Pasture or haylands receiving initial management		679 ac.
Pasture or haylands planted		711 ac.
Ponds built	35	
Gradient terraces built		1,700 ft.
Parallel terraces built		44,595 ft.
Trees planted		71 ac.
Field border established for wildlife		11,400 ft.

In addition to these, 15 farmers were given technical assistance in developing or revising overall conservation plans for their farms. Also, 25 individuals received inventory and evaluation assistance for conservation problems on their lands. Four units of government and one group also received this inventory and evaluation assistance to help solve natural resource problems or as a help in planning soil oriented projects.

We continue to promote conservation at every opportunity. We coordinated the annual district land judging contest for FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs in our 3 county district.

We participated again this year in the Soil Stewardship Week observance by providing 3,500 placemats imprinted with a conservation message to be used by restaurants in Jackson.

We had 13 Affiliate Members this year. We depend greatly on our affiliate members for their advice and financial assistance in carrying out our program for soil and water conservation.

We fully supported the Tennessee and National Association of Conservation Districts. Our dues to these associations were paid early in the year.

Our Watershed districts continued the operation of their organizations in good order this year. Annual maintenance was carried out as prescribed. Development of the Clover Creek Watershed Project plan is still under way. Extra work has been required in the development of this plan to assure that all interests involved there are considered.

We realize that conservation of our renewable natural resources is critical and more so now than ever before. With more land, previously left in pasture, now being row cropped in cotton and soybeans and with the rapid industrial development of our area we must broaden our scope of assistance and education of our people concerning conservation.

In order that we may get our message across to all of our landowners and operators, we believe we must have a full and well-rounded information program. To accomplish these goals we have weekly news articles in The Jackson Sun, we present a 5 minute program each week over radio station WTJS, and we appear periodically on TV station WBBJ. The Soil Conservation Service supplements our information program with monthly spot announcements and periodic slides and filmstrips for 3 local radio stations and 2 TV stations respectively.

Cooperation between landowners and the district is good. In order that we may provide a good service to our cooperators we have obtained \$3,600 from our County Court to provide a full-time office secretary. Mrs. Maxine S. Blankenship has served this year as our District Secretary.

Our technical staff for this year has been Cecil W. Settle as District Conservationist, Clint Jordan was assigned until the end of August as our Soil Conservation Technician. Charles V. Roberts was employed at the beginning of June as Soil Conservationist.

We appreciate the assistance we receive from the Soil Conservation Service under the leadership of Messrs Paul M. Howard as State Conservationist and Jerry S. Lee as Area Conservationist.

We also appreciate the invaluable assistance and promotion of our efforts given to us by; The Jackson Sun, Radio Stations WDXI, WJAK, and WTJS, Television Stations JCA and WBBJ, The Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, The Tennessee Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, The Madison County Court, The City of Jackson, The Jackson Regional Planning Commission, Our Affiliate Members, Schools and Colleges in the County, and all other business and individual supporters named and unnamed.

We respectfully submit this report as witness for our record in 1972.

*John S. Smith* - - -  
John S. Smith, Chairman  
Madison County Soil Conservation  
District

Financial Statement  
Annexed to our Annual Report  
1-10-72 to 1-8-73

On deposit January 10, 1972 \$1,210.16

Receipts during the year

Affiliate Members	\$350.00
Madison County Court	\$3,600.00
Gibson Co. Court (SCD Sign)	\$33.02
	\$3,983.02

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\$5,193.18

Expenditures

District Secretary	\$2,824.81
Internal Revenue	398.40
Old Age & Survivors Ins.	375.20
TACD & NACD	353.81
Sidney David Florist	16.79
Postmaster	24.00
	\$3,993.01

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Net on Deposit January 8, 1973

\$1,200.17