

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOR
1973

Nineteen and seventy-three continued to be a time of unusual conditions. Untimely weather persisted into the early planting season causing a delay in both conservation and farming activities. Farm price structures fluctuated leaving many farmers in uncertain conditions. Farmers signing production contracts generally received much lower prices for their products, especially cotton, at harvest time than did those farmers selling on the open market.

The District continued to broaden its program during 1973. Witness of this is the fact that the District signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Jackson Regional-Municipal Planning Commission, the Madison County Planning Commission and the Soil Conservation Service, setting out cooperative guidelines whereby the District will provide basic assistance to the two planning commissions in the evaluation of soils for developing areas of the county. This assistance, provided with the help of the Soil Conservation Service is in the form of evaluation of soil limitations on suitability for the selected land uses. We anticipate this assistance will grow to the point of recommending appropriate soil erosion and sediment controlling measures needed to achieve orderly, proper developed land resources in non-agricultural developments within the District.

Jackson and Madison County continues to be the primary growth center for the Jackson trade area. Naturally, this growth and development magnifies the already taxing pollution and environmental problems of the area. This is the reason our District has chosen to have an input into directing non-agricultural growth within the District.

In supporting area wide conservation efforts, the District worked for and sponsored the organization of a Resource Conservation and Development Project for an eight county area in Southwest Tennessee including Madison County. We have joined the other Soil Conservation Districts, County and City governments in the eight county area in asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture for assistance in planning and carrying out an R C & D program planned through our cooperative efforts. J. R. Azbill from our Board of Supervisors has been appointed to represent the Madison Soil Conservation District on the Chickasaw-Shiloh R C & D Association Council. Planning authorization was received in December from USDA.

Also, Franklin James, a member of our Board, was named to the Board of the Obion-Forked Deer River Basin Authority, a 14 county organization set up to combat flooding within the basin.

Field work on the Madison County soil survey being conducted by SCS² was completed at the end of June. Descriptive supporting data of the field surveys is now being prepared. We are now able to provide soils information to cooperators at any location within the District. This soils information is especially important in view of the broadened program concepts of the District.

The District is happy to be working with the ASC County Committee in carrying out an Emergency Conservation Measures Program designed to repair flood damages caused by heavy floods in early spring. At the end of the year we had responded to 103 requests for assistance in repairing flood damages to farm land in the District.

We again carried out our regular soil and water conservation program consisting of conservation planning and application assistance. Our technicians provided conservation planning assistance to landowners on request. Program emphasis this year has been providing assistance to farm operators using sloping land for the production of row crops. We have promoted conservation measures such as parallel terraces (some with pipe outlets), diversions, grassed waterways and land conversion to grass on lower production sites as a means to accomplishing conservation "on-the-land". We feel we have been successful in this effort.

We have promoted conservation at every opportunity. We supported land judging contests held for FFA chapters and 4-H clubs in the District.

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

We have 13 affiliate members this year. We depend greatly on our affiliate members for their advice and financial assistance in carrying out our program of 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. Development of the Clover Creek Watershed Project plan is still under way.

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 people concerning conservation.

In order that we may get our message across to all of our landusers, 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 landusers and the District is very good. In order that we may provide a good service to our cooperators, our county court provides the services of a full-time secretary at an annual cost to the court of \$4,800. The District negotiated this arrangement with the court effective July 1, 1973. Mrs. Maxine S. Blankenship has served this year as our District Secretary.

The Madison Soil Conservation District for 1973 had as its Board of 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 serves as Director for TACD area 8.

The Districts technical staff for 1973 has been Cecil W. Settle as District Conservationist and Charles V. Roberts as Soil Conservationist.

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

We also appreciate the invaluable assistance and promotion of our efforts given to us by: The Jackson Sun; Radio Stations WDXI, WTJS, and WJAK; 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-Municipal Planning Commission; The Madison County Planning Commission; our Affiliate Members; Schools and Colleges in the District; and all other business and individuals named and unnamed.

We respectfully submit this report as witness for our record in 1973.

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John S. Smith, Chairman
Madison County Soil Conservation
District

Financial Statement
 Annexed to our Annual Report
 1-8-73 to 1-25-74

On deposit January 8, 1973 \$297.62

Receipts during the year

Affiliate Members	\$	\$300.00	
			+\$300.00
			<u>\$597.64</u>

Expenditures

TACD	\$	80.00	
NACD		150.00	
NACD (for placemats)		57.87	
Postmaster (for stamps)		16.00	
Bank service charge		2.07	
John S. Smith(Convention)		51.61	
Cecil Settle(paid \$10.00 for stamps for the SCD to use on the RC&D Project)		10.00	
		<u>\$367.55</u>	-\$367.55
			<u>\$230.09</u>

Net on Deposit January 25, 1974 \$230.09