



Madison County Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT - 1982

Since 1941 two, separate government agencies have worked in partnership for soil conservation in Madison County. The Madison County Soil Conservation District was created through a referendum in 1941 to carry out the state's soil conservation duties. At that time the United States Department of Agriculture directed its Soil Conservation Service to form a partnership with the district. Local landowners were selected to serve on the district's Board of Supervisors to plan and guide the county's soil conservation program. Professional workers from the Soil Conservation Service were placed in the county to work through the district to help farmers use conservation methods.

The district set three objectives in 1941. The first was to dedicate each land area to its best use to control erosion; the second was to improve soil productivity; and, the third was to control flooding. Since 1941, the district's objectives have changed very little because good soil conservation has proven to be a temporary condition that requires constant renewal.

The district is guided by a board of supervisors---five local landowners. Franklin James is the chairman; Jimmy Stanford and Jimmy Bond serve as vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer, respectively; and J. E. Mullis and Johnny Woolfolk are the other members. Maxine Blankenship and Benton James are employed by the district, in cooperation with Madison County, to run the office and work with farmers.

The Soil Conservation Service provides professional conservationists, helps fund some cost-share programs, and helps other USDA agencies carry out their conservation related programs. The staff in 1982 included Bobby Clifford; Phillip Wilson; Melinda Turner; and Marilyn Stowell as soil conservationists; Paul Aydelott was the district conservationist.

Madison County, like the rest of West Tennessee, suffers from some of the worst erosion in the country. For that reason several beefed-up soil conservation programs or "targeted" programs were used in 1982.

SUPERVISORS

FRANKLIN JAMES
Chairman

JIMMY STANFORD
Vice-Chairman

JIMMY BOND
Secretary-Treasurer

J.E. MULLIS
Member

JOHNNY WOOLFOLK
Member

Throughout the summer of 1982 the Soil Conservation Service made temporary duty assignments in the county for 14 other SCS workers. As a result the district was able to increase the emphasis on the planning of conservation practices by farmers as a first step toward erosion control. Over 6,000 extra acres of farmland were planned during the summer as a result of the extra personnel.

In 1982 the Madison County Soil Conservation District's request for the planning of a land treatment project for the Cypress Creek Watershed was approved. As a result, eleven of the fourteen extra SCS people converged on the Huntersville-Denmark area for a two week "planning camp" in September. Workers went from farm to farm helping farmers plan the treatments needed to treat erosion problems in the watershed.

Field by field inventories were made on foot, by airplane, and from aerial photographs to learn cropping histories, erosion problems, and possible solutions to erosion in the 14,526 acres of the Cypress Creek Watershed. The studies were a vital step in the district's goal to have a workable comprehensive plan that will enable farmers to bring the erosion in the watershed under control.

In other work in 1982, over 330 landowners received assistance through the district. On over 20,000 acres of land, landowners made plans to use enough conservation practices to reduce erosion to negligible levels. Over 4,100 acres of conservation tillage was used last year at least partially as a result of the district's program. In total, the 851 individual services to landowners cause benefits for conservation on 12,000 acres of cropland. Of the 17,000 acres of all farm types of land benefited, over 10,000 acres were rendered free of erosion problems.

Through the Chickasaw-Shiloh Resource Conservation and Development Project the district expects to obligate about \$20,000 for critical erosion control in Clover Creek near Medon in 1983. In 1982 twenty-five acres of critical erosion were controlled with about \$7,700 of RC&D funds paying 75 percent of the landowner's cost.

Plans and specifications were prepared to assist the Madison County Highway Department sow fescue and sericea on 10 acres of eroding roadbanks in 1983. The district will pay for 75 percent of the cost through Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D funds from the Soil Conservation Service.

For 1983 the other elements of the district's program will be similar to 1982; neither the problems nor the solutions have changed greatly; "targeting" of funds and personnel will continue. The Madison-Cypress Creek Land Treatment plan should be completed, reviewed by the local landowners, and, we hope, approved. Services to other areas of the county should continue at the same or slightly higher levels in 1983.

Both the Soil Conservation Service and the Madison County Soil Conservation District provide services to farmers, homeowners, land renters, or other land users without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin. The soil conservation office is located at 313 North Parkway in Jackson, and the telephone number 668-8866. Office hours are 7:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.



Franklin James
Chairman