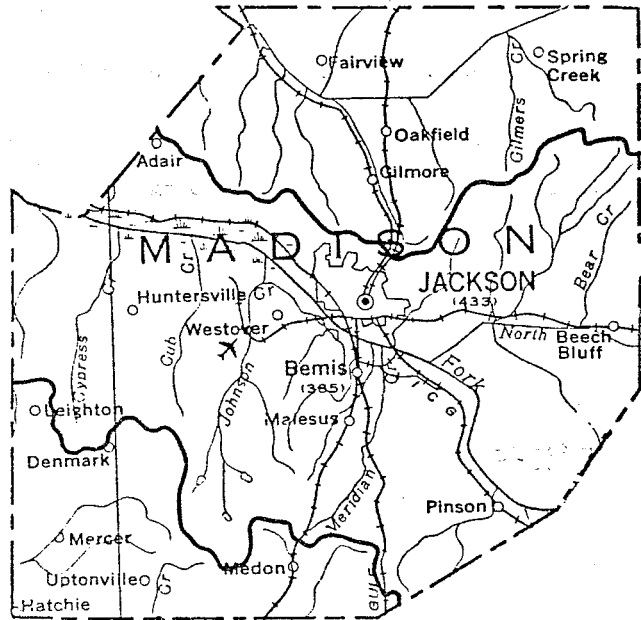




MADISON COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
1987



SUPERVISORS

FRANKLIN JAMES
Chairman

WARING HAZLEHURST
Vice-Chairman

JIMMY BOND
Secretary-Treasurer

BILLY RAY JONES
Member

HAROLD WATSON
Member

In 1987 the District geared itself up to meet the needs of those farmers, who we anticipate will seek conservation farm plans by 1990. As required under the 1985 Farm Bill, all upland cropland must have a conservation farm plan by 1990 to be eligible for governmental farm aid. A large part of the staff's time was utilized preparing folders on the hundreds of farms in Madison County. To aid in this undertaken the District has purchased a new typewriter and was issued a new computer by the Soil Conservation Service. The Soil Conservation Service also detailed five employees to Madison county this summer to help inventory farms and to assist farmers in preparing their conservation farm plans. In meeting the provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill over 60,000 acres were inventoried on some 900 farms, and over 25,000 acres were planned on some 300 farms. Due to the assertive leadership role the District assumed in regards to the 1985 Farm Bill we were subjected to a number of both state and federal evaluations. Overall the procedures we implemented for handling the 1985 Farm Bill were received with favor.

In conjunction with the 1985 Farm Bill there were two CRP sign-ups in 1987 in which our staff evaluated approximately 100 farms for eligibility. The process resulted in plans being prepared for some 3,000 acres. Although the District devoted considerable time to various aspects of the Farm Bill the staff managed to stay active in other projects.

During 1987 the District received and serviced over one hundred ACP referrals, including requests for terraces, waterways, grade structures, strip cropping, and pasture planting. In addition to ACP practices the District laid out and assisted in the construction of a number of farm ponds not funded through ACP, and provided technical assistance to the Obion Forked Deer River Basin Authority in the construction of a 30,000 dollar flood prevention/sediment control basin in the Spring Creek community.

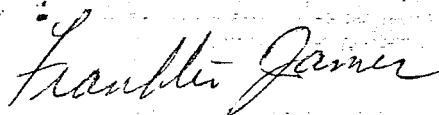
The District received over 30,000 dollars from the state and federal government for implementing conservation practices on the land in the Cypress Creek Watershed of Madison County. The funds helped to build grade structures, waterways, and terraces in the area. Funds were also used to establish permanent vegetative cover and aid in implementing minimal tillage. In another watershed, the Big Black Creek Watershed, the District has been appropriated 10,000 dollars of RC&D funds to be spent on highly eroding lands.

With its busy work load the District was still able to be involved in a number of civic activities relating to Conservation. The District assisted the Boy Scouts who planted pine trees on two acres of highly erodible land at Lake Graham, and helped the Future Farmers of America with their district soil judging competition. The District also took part in a paper

drive, which helped to provide funds for the restoration of a Jackson landmark.

During the year we lost the services of federal employees Rick Cody and Howard Watkins, and state employee Robert Jordan. Rick is now stationed in Greenwood Mississippi where he is the District Conservationist. Howard transferred to the Dresden field office and Robert is now working out of the Memphis field office. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to these valued employees.

In November the District held its annual awards banquet. Receiving awards were District cooperators Billy Donnell; Conservation Farmer 1987, Jimmy Bond; Five Star Conservation Farmer, and Rex Curry; for the promotion of CRP. Employees receiving awards for their efforts were Maxine Blankenship, Benton James, Debra Blankenship, and Lisa McReynolds. The Northside FFA soil judging team was recognized as the top high school soil judging team in the county. The guests and honorees were served a catered meal and addressed by Tennessee's Commission of Agriculture, Mr. A. C. Clark.



FRANKLIN JAMES
CHAIRMAN