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With sixty percent of planned practices scheduled to be applied this year, the meaning of conservation compliance took on greater significance to the producers and the district staff. Early this year the field office staff spent many weeks visiting all fields planned to be contoured in 1992. Each field was scrutinized for conformity to the SCS technical guidelines of contour farming. If the fields met SCS guidelines, they were reported as being applied. If a field did not meet SCS guidelines, the producer was notified. The majority of producers revised such fields to either winter cover or no-till. Unfortunately, eight producers failed to comply with their conservation farm plans this year.

Conservation practices applied this year included the installation of 170,000 feet of terraces, funded in part with ACP cost share. Approximately 150 acres of grass were established utilizing TDA small watershed funds. 511 acres were established in grass or trees under eighteen CRP contracts. 28,7500 acres were farmed along the contour and 11,700 acres were protected this winter with a winter cover crop. At least 5,000 acres were no-tilled during 1992

No-till will be further promoted in Madison County thanks to a \$19,000 grant awarded the District this year by TDA. The monies will be used as a financial incentive for cotton

producers to plant their HEL cotton fields using no-till cropping techniques.

The SCD recognized three individuals for their outstanding efforts in conservation. They included Alma Williamson; Conservation Cooperator of the Year, and Ken and Joe Couch; Conservation Farmers of the Year. Each of these individuals received an award during the SCD annual banquet. Sam Chandler of Dickson was our guest speaker. Sam stressed that the Agricultural community needs to promote itself with a positive image whenever possible to offset the bad publicity that farmers receive.

The District's accomplishments were realized through the joint effort of dedicated cooperators and the field office staff. Steven Dobbs, a valuable employee, was transferred to East Tennessee after four years of service to the county. However, the field office gained Julie Swift and Cathey Jones as new employees this year. Julie has recently joined SCS as a Soil Conservation Technician. Cathey was transferred to this office in May from the Weakley County office. During the summer, Jackie Curry assisted us as a part-time employee through the Jobs Training Partnership Act. We will miss Steve and we welcome Cathey and Julie to our staff.

Once again most of our District cooperators have risen to the challenge and have met FSA Conservation Cross Compliance as was mandated by our Congress. However, some influential individuals and groups claim conservation compliance isn't working, simply because there have been so few reported violations. These individuals and groups claim conservation isn't being applied as scheduled and that district staffs knowingly overlook these violations. I cannot speak for other districts but I am confident that the close working relationship our staff has with the District cooperators has led to high compliance and minimum violations. I am confident of the staff's integrity and know that great accomplishments have been made. I praise the staff for their integrity and their hard work, and I praise the cooperators for their patience, cooperation and their understanding.



Franklin James, Chairman SCD

NOTE: Benton James & Maxine Blankenship, District Technician & Secretary.