

**MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1995**

This annual report is presented by the board of supervisors of the Madison County Soil Conservation District to inform district cooperators and the public about District activities.

**INTRODUCTION**

The District is a corporate and political subdivision of the state and was established by the state soil conservation committee in 1941. The geographic and political boundaries of the District are the same as those of Madison County. The main purpose of the District is to enable the District to receive federal assistance for conservation programs. The District is a member of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Franklin, Waring, and past supervisor J. E. Mullis attended the TACD convention in Nashville during February. At the TACD West Tennessee summer meeting Waring was elected to serve as TACD's West Tennessee Vice-President.

**DISTRICT AT A GLANCE**

1992 Census

Total Area in Madison County	358,000 acres
Total Land in Farms	141,357 acres
Average Farm Size	280 acres
Number of Farms	505
Cooperators	500
Highly Erodible Acres	80,000 acres
Conservation Reserve Program Acres	11,000 acres
Conservation Tillage	20,000 acres
Contour Cropping	20,000 acres
Winter Cover Crops	35,000 acres
Crop Residue Cover	27,000 acres
Terraces	1,000,000+ feet

<u>1994 Crops</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>State Rank</u>
Cotton lbs.	49,600	711	35,265,600	5th
Corn bu.	9,500	116	1,100,000	17th
Soybeans bu.	16,000	35	555,000	19th
Wheat bu.	2,100	48	100,000	26th
Hay tons	9,500	2.0	19,000	72nd
Timber "1989"	140,700			41st

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>State Rank</u>
Milk Cows	200	74th
Cattle and Calves	15,000	59th
Hogs and Pigs	15,700	10th

## DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

The District is governed by a board of supervisors that is responsible for developing and administrating the District's long range program. The board is composed of five land owners residing within the District. Two of the supervisors are appointed to serve three years by the state soil conservation committee while three of the supervisors are elected to serve three years by the land owners within the District. The supervisors meet monthly and do not receive a salary. The present board consists of Franklin James, Waring Hazlehurst, Mike Pearson, Mark Smith, and Allen Verell.

Chairman, Franklin James, a residence of the Windy City community has been on the board since 1972 and has served as the board's chairman since 1975. Franklin is a past director for area VIII of the Tennessee Association of Conservation District.

Vice-Chairman, Waring Hazlehurst, resides in Jackson and has farming interests around the Bemis community. He has been on the board since 1984 and has served as the board's vice-chairman since 1986. Waring is the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts' West Tennessee Vice President.

Secretary-Treasury, Mike Pearson of the Adair community was elected to the board in 1995 along with Mark Smith of the Pope community, and Allen Verell of the Huntersville community.

## OFFICE STAFF

The office staff consists of federal employees Brad Denton and Lorella Jennings, and county employees Maxine Blankenship, Benton James, and Sharon Williams. Brad is a District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and has been stationed here since 1986. Lorella is a Soil Conservationist for NRCS and has been stationed here since May of 1995. Maxine has been the secretary-clerk since 1969, Benton has been the field technician since 1979, and Sharon has been a data input clerk since 1989. Myron Taylor, an agricultural major at TSU, did cooperative education work here for NRCS from August through December of 1995.

## DISTRICT BANQUET

The District held its annual awards banquet in February, at the West Tennessee Experiment Station. Nichols Farms was recognized as the district's conservation farm of 1994. Nichols Farms is headquartered in the Oakfield community. The farm is managed by Burruss Nichols and his son Mike. Nichols Farms is big in pork production and also produce cotton, corn, soybeans, and wheat. They include no-till, winter cover, crop residue, and crop rotation into their farming operation. The farm has an efficient waste management system and utilizes waste management ponds to irrigate their crops.

Jerry Lee, Tennessee's State Conservationist for NRCS, addressed the District on the status of conservation in Tennessee since the 1985 farm bill. Richard Swaim, Director of the Obion Forked Deer River Basin Authority, gave an update on the Authorities activities. The Hut Restaurant catered a meal to those who attended.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The District supplied St John Number 2 Baptist Church of Denmark with soil stewardship material for one of their worship services. Office staff displayed a farm model for children at East Elementary's Farm City Day and the staff presented an outdoors class for students at Lincoln Elementary school. The District submitted and was awarded \$1,500 in educational grants to develop outdoor exhibits for East and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

Approximately 50 people, representing agribusinesses, education, and government visited Mark Smith's farm. The visit was part of a 2 state tour conducted by the Conservation Technological Information Center to acquaint agricultural related professionals with progressive farming operations.

The District purchased 2 plaques; one displaying the names of those who have served the District as supervisors, and one displaying the cooperators names who have received district recognition awards.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

The District has approximately 280 contracts covering 11,000 acres enrolled in CRP through the Farm Service Agency. CRP, also known as the ten year program, is designed to stabilize the supply of agricultural commodities and as a soil conservation measure. Land enrolled in CRP must be maintained in a good conservation cover such as grass. The land cannot be used for pasture or haying during the ten year period and the participant receives an annual payment for participating. Land expiring this year was eligible for a one year extension. Contracts on 19 tracts totaling 923.5 acres were extended, while another 3 contracts totaling 117.5 acres expired without being extended. This year some CRP participants were allowed to take all or part of their enrolled acres out of CRP without being penalized. Through this early out option 267.4 acres were pull out from 19 contracts. During the CRP sign-up in 1995, 15 tracts totaling 527.6 acres were bid into CRP, however, only 13 tracts totaling 493.7 acres were accepted.

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

Six tracts totaling 548.5 acres were submitted for enrollment into WRP through NRCS. Two of the tracts failed to meet the initial requirements. The remaining four tracts totaling 476.6 acres met the requirements but haven't been funded at this time. Acres enrolled in WRP must be restored to its natural environment and are subject to a permanent easement restricting the future use of the land to uses promoting wetland habitats. Owners are paid a one time payment for the easement and receive cost share for the restoration expense.

**EARLY SEEDED WINTER COVER PROGRAM**

The District was awarded a \$22,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). The funds were used as a cost share incentive to promote the seeding of winter cover before Oct. 1st. Twenty-five cooperators enrolled 5,500 acres into the program.

**FISH DAY**

The District sponsored 2 fish days, one in the spring and one in the fall. Fish day allows the public to buy fingerlings to stock their ponds. The vendor supplies Channel Cat, Hybrid Blue Gill, Bass, Crappie, Red Ear, White Amur, and Fat Head Minnows.

**COMPLIANCE STATUS REVIEWS**

Each year NRCS is required to review random plans for conservation compliances. All of the 46 tracts reviewed by NRCS in 1995 were found to be in compliance.

**FUNDING**

The District's operations and services for 1995 were made possible in part by contributions from the following who we sincerely appreciate.

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| BASF                      | Madison Co. Farm Bureau |
| Bemis Gin Company Co.     | Mercer Gin Co.          |
| Dunavant Enterprise       | Monsanto                |
| Dwayne Buck Dozer Service | Sidney David Florist    |
| Haynes Gin Co.            | S. M. Lawrence Co.      |
| Hutson's AG Service       | Tennessee LICA          |
| Jackson Tractor Co.       | U.P. Bank of Jackson    |
| Jimmy Bond                | U.P. Bank of West TN    |
| Madison Co. Co-op         | Volunteer Bank          |



Franklin James, Chairman  
Madison County Soil Conservation District

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS  
JULY 1, 1994 ----- JUNE 30, 1995

I. SOURCE OF FUNDS

	(1) GENERAL FUND	(2) TACD FUNDS	(3) STATE 2K GRANT	(4) STATE 340 BMP GRANT	(5) STATE 329 BMP GRANT	(6) MAD. CO. GEN. F.	TOTAL FUNDS
BEGINNING BAL.	\$1,934.52	\$17.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,952.35
FUNDS	2,209.70	0.00	2,000.00	18,000.00	14,962.55	430.88	37,603.13
TOTAL FUNDS	\$4,144.22	\$17.83	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$14,962.55	\$430.88	\$39,555.48

II. USE OF FUNDS:

WINTER COVER COST SHARE				\$18,000.00			\$18,000.00
NO-TILL COST SHARE					\$14,962.55		14,962.55
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE						\$548.87	548.87
ADVERTISEMENT			\$641.71				641.71
ANNUAL BANQUET			501.65				501.65
SUPPLIES	\$35.64		307.77			\$30.88	374.29
MEETINGS	1,081.24					400.00	1,481.24
DUES	785.00						785.00
FISH	398.25						398.25
EMPLOYEE EXP.	212.00						212.00

DISBURSSMENTS	\$2,512.13	\$ 0.00	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$14,962.55	\$430.88	\$37,905.56
ENDING BALANCES	\$1,632.09	\$17.83	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,649.92

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION  
BUDGET

JULY 1, 1995 ----- JUNE 30, 1996

I. BUDGETED SOURCE OF FUNDS

	(1) GENERAL FUND	(2) TACD FUNDS	(3) STATE 2K GRANT	(4) STATE BMP GRANT	(5) MAD. CO. GEN. F.	TOTAL FUNDS
BEGINNING BAL.	\$1,632.09	\$17.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,649.92
ESTIMATED REVENUES	2,200.00	0.00	2,000.00	\$25,500.00	\$500.00	\$30,200.00
TOTAL EST. FUNDS	\$3,832.09	\$17.83	\$2,000.00	\$25,500.00	\$500.00	\$31,849.92

II. BUDGETED USE OF FUNDS:

WINTER COVER COST SHARE				\$25,500.00		\$25,500.00
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES			325.00			325.00
AFFILIATE DUES	\$785.00					785.00
SUPPLIES	400.00		100.00			500.00
AVERTISEMENT	575.00					575.00
GIFTS, ETC...	50.00					50.00
ANNUAL BANQUET			700.00			700.00
MEETINGS	1,100.00				400.00	1,500.00
EMPLOYEE EXP.	200.00					200.00

EST. DISBURSSMENTS	\$2,135.00	\$ 0.00	\$2,000.00	\$25,500.00	\$500.00	\$30,135.00
EST. BALANCES	\$1,697.09	\$17.83	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,714.92