



Madison County Soil Conservation District
313 N. Parkway - Jackson, TN 38305 - (901) 668-8866

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1996**

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 District is a member of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD), and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS - The District is governed by a board of supervisors that is responsible for developing and administering 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 year terms 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-Treasurer, 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 in 1996 consisted of federal employees Brad Denton and Lorella Jennings, and county employees Maxine Blankenship, and Benton James. Brad is a District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and has been stationed here since 1986. Lorella was a Soil Conservationist for NRCS and was stationed here since May of 1995. In December of 96, NRCS transferred Lorella to Polk County where she will be District Conservationist. Maxine has been the office secretary-clerk since 1969, while Benton has been the field technician and conservationist since 1979.

SUPERVISORS

FRANKLIN JAMES
Chairman

WARING HAZLEHURST
Vice-Chairman

MIKE PEARSON
Secretary-Treasurer

MARK SMITH
Member

ALLEN VERELL
Member

DISTRICT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - The District held its annual awards banquet in February, 1996, at the Madison County Agricultural Complex Auditorium. Allan Houston, a wildlife specialist with UT at Ames Plantation, presented a program on the varied wildlife species of West Tennessee. Jimmy Bond was recognized as the District's Conservation Farmer of 1995, and Harbert Alexander was recognized as the District's Cooperator of 1995. THE HUT RESTAURANT catered a meal to the 85 people in attendance. Twenty floral table decorations and the floral centerpiece were given out as door prizes.

SOIL STEWARDSHIP SERVICES - In April the District supplied St. John's Baptist Church Number 2 of Denmark with soil stewardship material for worship services during Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION - In April, the District staff along with several others participated in Arbor Day celebration at Lincoln Elementary School. The staff had constructed an exhibit that illustrates how ground cover, or the lack of ground cover, affects soil erosion.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAY - In May, the District staff took part in Environmental Awareness Day attended by 1,200 fifth grade students from Madison County schools.

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER - During the year, the District published two newsletters which were mailed to 300 District cooperators.

TACD'S SOIL CONSERVATION PROMOTION AWARD - The District nominated Lincoln Elementary School for TACD's Conservation Promotion Award. In recognition of Lincoln's outstanding efforts to introduce nature to its students, Lincoln won first place honors in local, area, and state competition for its promotion of conservation through education.

THANK YOU FARMERS - POSTCARDS AND POSTERS - In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the District sponsored a postcard mailing to District farmers, thanking them for their hard work. Students from Lincoln Elementary and East Elementary schools participated in the mailing. Students also drew and colored posters depicting farm scenes.

COLLECTION & RECYCLING PLASTIC PESTICIDE CONTAINERS - To promote the safe disposal and the recycling of plastic pesticide containers the District in cooperation with Hutson's Ag Services, The Madison County Farmers Co-op, Joel Haynes, and Mercer Gin sponsored two collection and shredding days when 3,000 containers were voluntarily brought in and shredded for recycling. Television Station, WBBJ, did a feature covering one of the events.

EARLY SEEDED WINTER COVER COST SHARE - The District was awarded a \$22,500 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-six cooperators enrolled over 6,000 acres into the program. Cooperators received approximately \$3.67 per acre.

FISH SALE - The District sponsored 2 fish sales, one in the spring and one in the fall. Fish sales allow 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. Over \$2,000 of fish were purchased by 15 individuals during the sales.

NO-TILL DRILL - The District obtained a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) to purchase a 7 foot no-till Tye drill for rent by people in and around Madison County. The drill is housed, and can be rented by the Madison County Farmers Coop on Ragland Road. The drill was used on nearly 300 acres during the fall of ninety-six.

STRAW MULCHING MACHINE - The Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council has a straw mulcher available for rent through the District. Eight people used the mulcher in 1996.

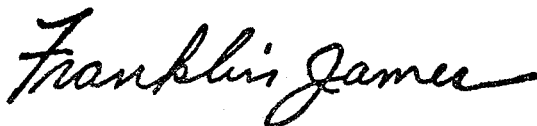
WRP - Three cooperators applied for enrollment into the Wetland Reserve Program. One contract for 27.6 acres was accepted, another cooperator's land was determined to be eligible, while a third tract was determined to be ineligible.

DISTRICT SPONSORS AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS

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

American Cyanamid
Bemis Gin Company
Dunavant Enterprise
Fletcher Equipment
Hutson's AG Service
Madison County Co-op
Monsanto
Sidney David Florist
U.P. Bank of West TN

BASF
Jimmy Bond
Dwayne Buck Dozer Service
Haynes Gin Co.
Jackson Tractor Co.
Mercer Gin Co.
S. M. Lawrence Co.
U.P. Bank of Jackson
Volunteer Bank



Franklin James, Chairman
Madison County Soil Conservation District

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

Office Data

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>1995 Crops</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>1995 State Rank</u>	<u>1990 Rank</u>
Cotton lbs.	57,500	501	28,807,500	5th	6th
Corn bu.	8,700	102	890,000	20th	17th
Soybeans bu.	16,000	29	460,000	18th	13th
Wheat bu.	3,000	48	145,000	21st	21st
Hay tons	9,000	2.3	21,000	65th	
Timber "1989"	140,700			41st	

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>1995 State Rank</u>	<u>1990 Rank</u>
Milk Cows (1/1/95)	200	74th	65th
Cattle and Calves (1/1/96)	16,000	59th	68th
Hogs and Pigs (12/1/95)	17,000	9th	22th