

**MADISON COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997**

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 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 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 1997 consisted of federal employees Brad Denton and Kenneth Williams, 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. Kenneth is a Soil Conservationist for NRCS and was transferred from Haywood County to Madison County in January of 1997. Maxine has been the office secretary-clerk since 1969, while Benton has been the field technician and conservationist since 1979.

DISTRICT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - The District held its annual awards banquet in March, at the Madison County Agricultural Complex Auditorium. Attorney General, Jerry Woodall, spoke on crime and law enforcement in Jackson-Madison County. Joel Haynes was recognized as the District's Conservation Farmer of 1996. The Hut Restaurant catered dinner to the 85 people in attendance. Twenty floral table decorations and the floral centerpiece were given out as door prizes.

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER - During the year, the District published two newsletters which were mailed to over 200 District cooperators. The newsletter serves to inform cooperators of up and coming events, programs, and activities.

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

FARM CITY DAY - In April, District staff participated in Farm City Day, held at East Elementary School. District staff along with Employees of the Tennessee Department of Forestry developed a trail through a five acre woods lot on the school's property. Trees were identified and marked. Over 500 students were taken on guided tours by members of the District staff. The District staff also handed out activity booklets to the students. Many other agencies, businesses, and individuals took part in the event.

WEST TENNESSEE ENVIRONTHON - District staff assisted with the Environthon held at Chickasaw State Park in April. The event was sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Farm Bureau, and the Tennessee RC&D Council. Teams from The University School of Jackson (USJ) placed 1st and 2nd in the West Tennessee competition. USJ is located in Madison County.

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. Activity books purchased from NACD with a grant from TDA were given to the students visiting the booth.

HAY DAY - In May, the District staff assisted UT Extension Service with HAY DAY which took place on the farm of Rachel Smith. The District's drill, which was used to renovate hay fields on the tour, was on display at one of the stops. The District staff helped repair a waterway and demonstrated the RC&D mulcher at the stop. Over 100 people attended the event.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION - The District was awarded a grant by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to provide teaching materials relating to water quality. The funds will be used to purchase information pamphlets for students and activity booklets to assist teachers with their classes.

OUT DOOR CLASS ROOM - The District was awarded a grant from the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council to help Tigrett Middle School establish an outdoor classroom. The District staff designed and constructed an out door study area, which included weather monitoring instruments, field crop plots and wildlife plantings.

NATIVE WARM SEASON GRASS DEMONSTRATION - The District was awarded a grant from the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council to establish a Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG) plot for demonstration purposes. The plot was established on Mark Smith's farm and includes Indian Grass, Switch Grass, Eastern Gamma Grass, Big Bluestem, and Little Bluestem. NWSGs provides excellent vegetation for game fowl, and some of the grasses have been successfully grown for forage in other parts of the country, proving to be drouth resistant and producing both high quality and high quantity hay. Bob Bryant of Quails Unlimited was key to this project.

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, and Mercer Gin, sponsored a collection and shredding day in September, when 3,000 containers were voluntarily brought in and shredded for recycling.

EARLY SEEDED WINTER COVER COST SHARE - The District was awarded an \$18,000 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. Sixteen cooperators enrolled some 3,000 acres into the program. Cooperators received approximately \$6.00 per acre.

FISH DAY - The District sponsored 2 Fish Days, one in the spring and one in the fall. Fish Days allow the public to buy fingerlings to stock their ponds. The vendor, Tommy's Fish Truck, from Arkansas, supplies Channel Cat, Hybrid Blue Gill, Bass, Crappie, Red Ear, White Amur, and Fat Head Minnows. Over \$700 of fish were purchased by individuals during the two sales.

NO-TILL DRILL - The District has 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 Co-op on Ragland Road. The drill was used on nearly 500 acres this past year. The drill was obtained with funds by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA).

STRAW MULCHING MACHINE - The Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council has a straw mulcher available for rent through the District. Ten people used the mulcher in 1997.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) - Two contracts totaling around 50 acres were entered under the Wetland Reserve Program. Two other cooperators have made offers on nearly 170 acres which haven't yet been approved.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) - The USDA held two CRP sign-ups in 1997. Approximately 235 applicants were screened. 135 placed bids in the first sign-up, of which 100 were accepted, totally 3,774 acres. The bids of the 58 who placed bids on 1,963 acres during the second sign-up haven't been processed, therefore, we are unsure how many of the 58 will be accepted.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) - EQIP is a new USDA conservation cost-share program. The formal Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) was combined with other USDA conservation programs to form EQIP. In 1997 the District approved 11 contracts totaling \$26,140.

ENGINEERING SERVICES - The District staff assisted cooperators with a number of conservation practices, including over 20,000 feet of terraces, diversions, waterways, grade structures, and ponds. The staff also assisted Pinson Elementary School with a water disposal system.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES - The District staff assisted several real estate agents, farm appraisers, environmental consultants, and individuals by providing them with soil information, soil maps, topography maps, flood insurance rate maps, wetland inventory map, and both historic and contemporary aerial photos.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) - The District experienced heavy rainfall during March. Officials of NRCS said some parts of the District received rain amounts which would be classified as a 100 year storm for the area, nearly 8 inches in a 24 hour period. The heavy rain caused the Forked Deer River and other tributaries to rage out of their banks. Some fields along the river had as much as 4 acres of sand piled 3 feet high deposited in them. Ten applications totaling \$10,421 were accepted for emergency funding to remove the sand from crop fields.

JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT - The heavy rain in March resulted in two of the five Johnson Creek Watershed dams being damaged as flood water flowed through their earth spillways. One of the spillways developed a gully down the center of it which resulted in some \$20,000 in damages. This spillway was repaired during the year. Another spillway on another dam completely collapsed under the pressure and drained the 50 acre lake. Fences were washed away, cattle were lost, roads and bridges were damaged, and fields had sand deposited over them. This dam is scheduled to be repaired in 1998 at a cost of over \$100,000.

MERIDIAN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT - The heavy rain in March also resulted in damage to two of the three Meridian Creek Watershed dams' distilling basins. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has set aside funds to help in the repair of the two dams. The work should get underway in 1998.

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	BASF
Bemis Gin Company	Jimmy Bond
City Concrete	Dunavant Enterprise
Fletcher Equipment	Hutson's AG Service
Jackson Tractor Co.	Madison County Co-op
Madison Co. Farm Bureau	Mercer Gin Co.
S. M. Lawrence Co.	Sidney David Florist
Tri-State Chemical	U.P. Bank of Jackson
U.P. Bank of West TN	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

1995

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

1995

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

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS
 JULY 1, 1996 ----- JUNE 30, 1997

I.
 SOURCE OF FUNDS

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	TOTAL FUNDS
GENERAL FUND	TACD FUNDS	STATE GRANT	STATE WINTER COVER	MAD. CO. G. FUND	RC&D GRANT	RC&D TIG.	RC&D GRANT	STATE I&E	RC&D GRANT	STATE DRILL	FRANK SORELL	STATE BEAVER	
BEGINNING BAL.	\$2,617.73	\$17.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$217.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,852.21
FUNDS	5,309.13	607.00	2,000.00	21,997.98	400.00	900.00	700.00	1,913.04	0.00	10,000.00	50.00	0.00	43,877.15
TOTAL FUNDS ACTUAL	7,926.86	624.25	2,000.00	21,997.98	400.00	900.00	700.00	1,913.04	217.23	10,000.00	50.00	0.00	46,729.36
TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDS	4,817.73	17.83	2,000.00	22,500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	217.23	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	32,552.79
ACTUAL LESS BUDGETED	3,109.13	606.42	0.00	(502.02)	(100.00)	900.00	700.00	1,913.04	0.00	10,000.00	50.00	(2,500.00)	14,176.57

II.

USE OF FUNDS

	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL LESS BUDGETED
BMP COST SHARE	\$21,997.98	\$22,500.00	(\$502.02)
BMP BEAVER LEVELER		\$0.00	2,500.00 (2,500.00)
SUPPLIES	\$876.01	750.00	126.01
BANQUET	722.94	850.00	(127.06)
ORGANIZATION DUES	\$575.00	800.00	(225.00)
MEETINGS	995.41	1,395.41	(400.00)
F. BENIFITS	191.50	191.50	(28.50)
EQUIPMENT	26.10	427.15	(401.05)
GIFTS	130.00	130.00	0.00
EAST SCHOOL		217.23	217.23
TIGERRETT SCHOOL		0.00	0.00
I&E MATERIALS		1,913.04	1,913.04
WARM SEASON GRASS		439.49	439.49
FRANK SORELL		50.00	50.00
TACD ACTIVITIES	\$557.41	557.41	0.00
DRILL PURCHASE		\$10,000.00	0.00 10,000.00

TOTAL DISBURSMENTS	\$1,918.01	\$557.41	\$21,997.98	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$439.49	\$1,913.04	\$217.23	\$10,000.00	\$50.00	\$39,493.16	\$27,387.23	(\$854.01)
ENDING BALANCES	\$6,008.85	\$66.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$260.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,714.92	\$5,521.28	