

**MADISON COUNTY**  
**SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998**

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. In 1998, Waring stepped down as 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. Each of these supervisors were reelected to a second term in 1998.

OFFICE STAFF - The office staff in 1998 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. Local attorney, Nancy Choate, spoke on estate planning, and Bob Bryant of Quail Unlimited spoke on Quail management. Homer Jones was recognized as the District's Conservation Farmer of 1997, and Bob Bryant was given a Distinguished Service Award. 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.

TACD ANNUAL MEETING: Joel Haynes, the recipient of the District's 1996 Conservation Farmer of the Year award, was recognized as TACD's Conservation Farmer of 1997 at the TACD's annual meeting in 1998.

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER - During the year, the District published one newsletter which was 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, Denmark Baptist Church, 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 ENVIRONMENTHON - District staff assisted with the Environmenthon 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. Ten teams consisting of fifty students participated in the event. The University School of Jackson (USJ) placed 1st and Jackson Christian School (JCS) of Jackson placed 2nd in the West Tennessee competition.

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 in Henderson County. The District staff displayed the RC&D mulcher. Over 200 people attended the event.

OUT DOOR CLASS ROOM - The District staff along with staff from the Tennessee Division of Forestry assisted Denmark Elementary School with the development of a natural trail through the school's woods lot. Over twenty species of trees were identified and marked and a path was cleared. The staff looks forward to leading classes through the nature trail.

TDA AG CONSERVATION GRANT - In August the District entered into a contract with the Tennessee Department of Agricultural (TDA). The contract makes the District eligible for grant funding from TDA over the next five years. The grant enables the District to provide cost share for certain conservation work performed by District cooperators. The grant also enables the District to help fund information and education projects. In 1998 the District received \$25,575 for conservation work and \$2,400 for information and education.

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 \$300 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. Six cooperators used the mulcher in 1998.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) - The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is a federal program where the government purchases permanent or temporary easements on lands that would have been considered wetlands before they were cleared. The land is restored to its natural hydrology and planted to bottom land hardwood trees. The District has two WRP contracts totaling around 45 acres. Approximately 20 of the contracted acres were restored in 1998. The other contract will be fulfilled around the first of next year. One WRP application was approved by the government in 1998, but the government's offer was rejected by the landowner. A fifty acre WRP application is pending approval by the government and acceptance by the landowner.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) - Thirty applicants were screened and twenty-eight placed bids during the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up in 1998. Thirty-two of the 64 applicants who placed bids at the end of 1997 were accepted into CRP during 1998. CRP contracts are agreements between individuals and the federal government, where the individual agrees to establish and maintain their environmentally sensitive land in a vegetative cover which protects the soil from erosion and benefits wildlife. In return, the government partially reimburses the individual's establishment costs and pays the landowner an annual rent.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) - EQIP is a federal program which provides cost share for the installation of certain conservation practices. In 1997-1998 the District had 33 applications. Ten practices were approved for \$30,000 of cost share. Another twelve practice were installed in 1998 of which \$18,000 were provided in cost share.

ENGINEERING SERVICES - The District staff assisted cooperators with a number of conservation practices, including terraces, waterways, diversions, grade structures, ponds, sediment basins, watering troughs, heavy use areas, and fencing.

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.

JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT - Johnson Creek Watershed Dam # 5, which failed during heavy rains in 1997 was repaired in 1998. Funding and technical assistance was provided by NRCS.

MERIDIAN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT - Two Meridian Creek Watershed Dams that sustained damage during heavy rains in 1997 were repaired in 1998. Funding for the repairs was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and technical assistance was provided by NRCS.

DISTRICT SPONSORS AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The District's operations and services for 1998 were made possible in part by contributions from the following who we sincerely appreciate.

American Cyanamid  
BASF  
Bemis Gin Company  
Dunavant Enterprises  
First Bank  
First Tennessee Bank  
Fletcher Equipment  
Hutson's Ag Services  
Jackson Tractor  
Jimmy Bond

Madison County Co-op  
Madison County Farm Bureau  
Mercer Gin Company  
Monsanto  
Sidney David Florist  
S. M. Lawrence Company  
Tri-State Delta Chemical, Inc.  
Union Planters Bank of Jackson  
Union Planters Bank of West Tennessee  
Volunteer Bank

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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>Crops</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>1997 State Rank</u>
Cotton lbs.	39,500	577	22,791,500	7th
Corn bu.	15,000	109	1,630,000	12th
Soybeans bu.	28,000	32	900,000	14th
Wheat bu.	3,400	44	150,000	22nd
Hay tons	9,000	2.0	18,000	68th
Timber "1989"	140,700			41st

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>1998 State Rank</u>
Cattle and Calves	13,000	62nd
Hogs and Pigs	17,000	9th

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 SOURCES AND USE OF FUNDS  
 JULY 1, 1997 ----- JUNE 30, 1998

I.  
 SOURCE OF FUNDS

	(1) GENERAL FUND	(2) TACD FUNDS	(3) STATE 2K GRANT	(4) STATE BMP GRANT	(5) MAD. CO. GEN. F.	(6) RC&D GRANT TIGERETT	(7) RC&D GRANT GRASS	(8) STATE I&E	TOTAL FUNDS
BEGINNING BAL.	\$6,008.85	\$66.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$260.51	\$0.00	\$7,236.20
FUNDING	7,056.67	520.10	2,000.00	18,000.00	399.74	0.00	0.00	2,973.51	\$30,950.02
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	13,065.52	586.94	2,000.00	18,000.00	399.74	900.00	260.51	2,973.51	\$38,186.22
TOTAL FUNDS BUDGETED	11,008.75	666.84	2,000.00	18,000.00	400.00	900.00	260.51	3,000.00	\$36,236.10
AVAILABLE LESS BUD.	\$2,056.77	(\$79.90)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$0.26)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$26.49)	\$1,950.12

  

	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL LESS BUDGETED
BMP COST SHARE	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
SUPPLIES ETC...	\$794.14	\$900.00	(\$105.86)
BANQUET	843.18	\$700.00	\$143.18
ORGANIZATION DUES	\$1,005.00	\$1,005.00	\$0.00
MEETINGS	1,245.98	\$1,400.00	\$515.40
F. BENEFITS	269.68	\$200.00	(\$107.00)
EQUIPMENT	93.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)
GIFTS	40.06	\$40.06	(\$109.94)
TIGERETT SCHOOL		\$532.71	(\$367.29)
I&E MATERIALS		\$2,730.51	(\$269.49)
WARM SEASON GRASS		\$245.64	(\$14.87)
TACD ACTIVITIES	\$438.52	\$666.84	(\$228.32)

  

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	ACTUAL LESS BUDGETED
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS	\$2,291.04	\$2,730.51	(\$1,044.19)
ENDING BALANCES	\$10,774.48	\$11,548.06	(\$1,044.19)

Madison County Soil Conservation District  
Sources of General Fund Revenues  
For the Year Ending June 30, 1998

Fund	Source	Revenues	Percentage
General	Drill	\$4,249.46	60.55
General	Sponsors	2,300.00	32.77
General	Interest	181.81	2.59
General	Mulcher	159.00	2.27
General	Fish	128.40	1.83
Total		\$7,018.67	100.00

Madison County Soil Conservation District  
Sponcers  
For the Year Ending June 30, 1998

Date	Sponcer	Amount
01-28-98	American Cyanamid	\$150.00
02-02-98	Union Planters West Tenn	100.00
02-11-98	Jimmy Bond	25.00
02-11-98	Jackson Tractor	25.00
02-13-98	Madison County Co-op	100.00
02-17-98	Dunavant Enterprises	100.00
02-17-98	Bemis Gin	150.00
02-17-98	Madison County Farm Bureau	150.00
02-19-98	BASF	100.00
02-20-98	Hutson's Ag Services	100.00
02-23-98	First Tennessee Bank	100.00
02-24-98	Monsanto	100.00
02-24-98	Fletcher Equipment	100.00
03-09-98	Volunteer Bank	250.00
03-09-98	Tri-State Delta Chemical	50.00
03-10-98	Mercer Gin	150.00
03-23-98	First Bank	150.00
04-27-98	S. M. Lawrence	100.00
04-30-98	Union Planters Bank of Jackson	300.00
		\$2,300.00