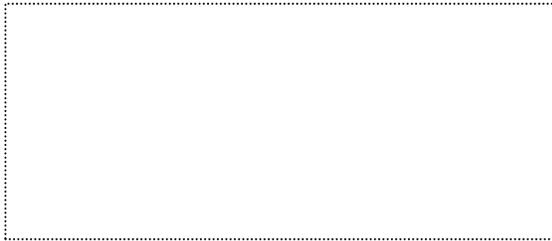


**Madison County Soil
Conservation District
313 North Parkway
Jackson, Tennessee 38305**

**Phone: 731-668-1544 ext. 3
FAX: 731-664-7685**

**Chairman, Allen Verell
Vice-Chairman, Mike Pearson
Secretary-Treasury, Joel Haynes
Member, Bob Bryant
Member, Don Johnson**

**Serving to Conserve
Madison County's
Natural Resources Since 1941**



NEWSLETTER

MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving to Conserve Madison County's Natural Resources Since 1941

Conservation Programs to Consider

EQIP: Applications for technical & financial assistance on conservation work in 2011 under the EQIP program will be taken by **NRCS** through mid October at our office. Eligible work includes livestock watering systems, cross fencing, pasture/hay establishment, gully control structures, terraces, precision farming, and others.

TDA: The **District** has applied for a \$25,000 grant to provide financial assistance on conservation work. Eligible work includes the same practices as EQIP but also includes the seeding of winter cover, which, in past years, has been allowed to be grazed and harvested. Those that are interested should contact our office.

CRP: **FSA** will be conducting a general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup Aug. 2nd through Aug. 27th. The signup is for new contracts and for those CRP contracts that will expire this Sept. Under CRP, eligible applicants with eligible land can apply to establish their land in one of several conservation covers which include grasses, trees, and shrubs. Establishment costs are partially reimbursed and the successful applicants will receive annual payment for the duration of the contract. Please visit the FSA office to apply.

WRP: **NRCS** is taking applications to purchase easements under the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Easements may either be perpetual or for 30 years. The land must meet wetland criteria. Open land will be planted to bottomland hardwoods. Some land already in trees may be included with the open land. Currently perpetual easements are being purchased in Madison County for **\$2,380/acre** on open land and **\$1,280/acre** for adjacent wooded land with no cost to the landowner.

10 ft. Haybuster Drill available for Rent through the Mid-South Farmers Co-op

The Madison County Soil Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of a person's race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 1 August 2010

313 North Parkway
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Serving Madison County since 1941

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Board of Supervisors

Allen Verell
Chairman

Mike Pearson
Vice-Chairman

Joel Haynes
Secretary-Treasurer

Bob Bryant
Member

Don Johnson
Member

2010 Annual District Awards and Appreciation Banquet

In March the District hosted its annual awards and appreciation banquet. Approximately 100 farmers, landowners, business leaders, government leaders, USDA, and TDA employees attended. Guest speaker, Jim Nunn, owner of Nunn Cotton Company, Inc. in Brownsville shared a presentation on the carbon credit exchange and how it can provide income to agricultural landowners. Kevin Brown, NRCS state conservationist gave an update on NRCS, while Jim Nance, program manager for TDA gave an update on TDA.

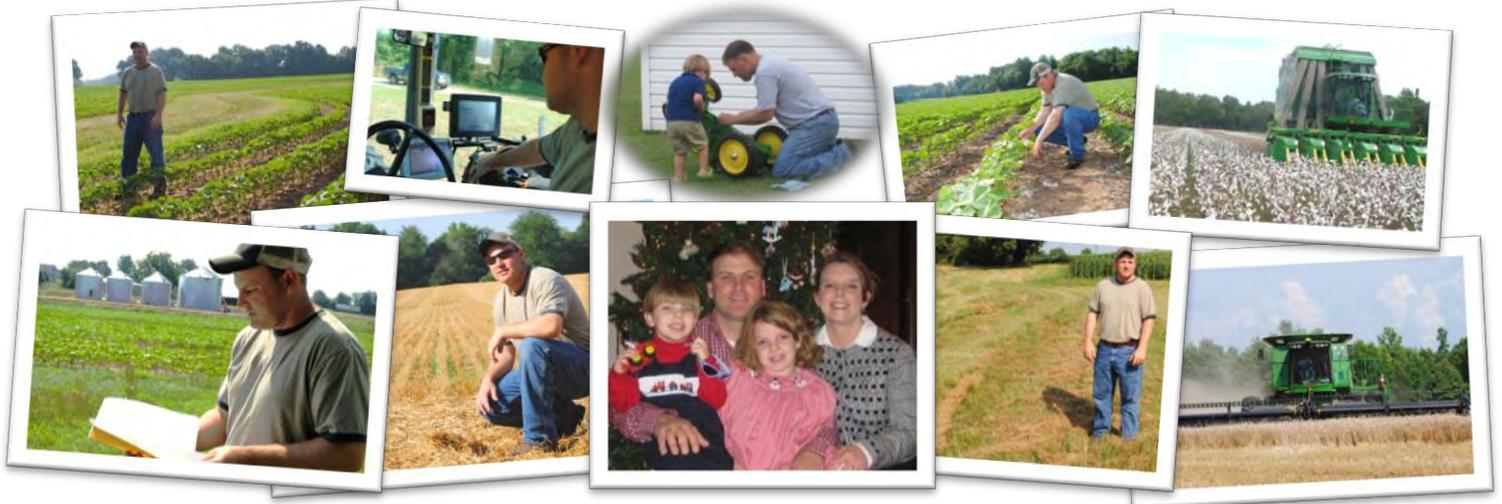


The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2009 Madison County Outstanding District Cooperator Award to Brad Tinsley. Madison County SCD Board Chairman, Allen Verell, presented it to Brad and stated, "Brad not only works to improve the land and water, but also works to improve his community." Brad and his wife, Heather and their children, Taylor and Braden, reside in the Mercer community.

Brad serves as a director of the Madison County Farm Bureau, past board member of the Madison Farmers Co-op and is chairman of the Madison County Young Farmers and Ranchers. In addition, he is a graduate of the Ag-Star Program, established to develop community leaders who work in the field of agriculture.

Conservation measures Brad utilizes include grade stabilization structures, seeding of winter cover crops, terraces, grass waterways, no-till, crop rotation, contour farming and grass filter strips. In 2009 Brad constructed 2,000 feet of diversions to treat ephemeral gullies, and enrolled 250 acres in precision farming in the EQIP program.

A love for the land and immense dedication supply Brad with the energy and effort to apply excellent management techniques that are most beneficial to his operation and to conservation. Brad is a notable example of success. He is a true *steward of the land*.





Maxine's Service is Celebrated

Maxine Blankenship was surrounded by her family, friends and coworkers, at a reception in her honor. Maxine retired in April after having served 41 years as the office secretary for the Madison County Soil Conservation District. Maxine, we appreciate your many years of service and you will indeed be missed. Best Wishes Maxine!



New Employee

When you visit the District office or call you will likely see a new face at the front desk and hear a new voice over the phone. That new face and new voice will be our new office secretary Ms. Jeri Harris. Jeri joined the staff in May. Jeri comes to us with a farm background and with over 20 years of office experience. Please welcome Jeri as the District's office secretary.

A Word from Our Chairman



As Chairman of the Madison County Soil Conservation District, I sincerely thank the local, state and federal governments, their many participating agencies, the local affiliated businesses and the many individual farmers and landowners for the partnerships we have forged. Together we are able to work as one to conserve soil and soil related natural resources. I extend my thanks to the many individual farmers and landowners that work with the District. Their voluntary efforts to improve their natural resources serve to benefit the greater community in which we live. Last year the District assisted farmers and landowners with conservation practices that benefited nearly 12,000 acres. The work included gully control structures, livestock watering facilities and heavy use areas, diversions, terraces, cross fencing, irrigation enhancements to conserve water, and nutrient management through precision farming. Another 12,000 acres are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). These programs serve to protect sensitive lands, improve wildlife habitats, and reestablish our wetlands.

Allen Verell, Chairman

Madison County Soil Conservation District

Madison County SCD Election 2010

Every three years the District is required to hold a county wide election where Madison County landowners have the opportunity to vote to elect three of the District's five supervisors. The election was held in March with ballot boxes at Tennessee Tractor, R&J Feed, and the FSA office. The landowners voted to reelect Allen Verell, Mike Pearson, and Bob Bryant to serve another three years. They will serve with Joel Haynes and Don Johnson to develop and manage the District program. Joel and Don were appointed to the board to three year terms by the state conservation committee in a preceding year.

May 1st Flood

On May 1st Madison County was inundated with as much as 18 inches of rainfall. The storm was responsible for much flooding that resulted in damage to cropland and roads throughout the county. The office staff has worked hard to visit sites throughout the county to assess damage to establish the groundwork to assist agricultural landowners and local government to repair damage to cropland and infrastructure. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) and the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) are set up by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters such as the May 1, 2010 flood. EWP is designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property while the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for



farmers, ranchers and landowners to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Participants can receive cost-share assistance of up to 75% of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices, as determined by the county FSA committee. Madison County Soil Conservation District, FSA, and NRCS employees have worked diligently with local government agencies to address the havoc that the May 2010 flood inflicted on Madison County. NRCS and District staffs have visited 55 sites along county roads designated by the county highway department as damaged by the storm. Nine of these sites were approved for federal EWP assistance. The work will consist of shoring-up dangerously eroded road banks. The staff is still in the process of visiting nearly 250 farms designated by farmers as receiving flood damage from the May 1st storm. FSA will provide financial assistance to farmers for the removal of sand deposited in fields, damage to fencing, and damage to conservation structures.



Special thanks to our district sponsors and affiliate members.

Please support them as they support the Madison County Soil Conservation District.

