

Madison County
Soil Conservation District
313 N Parkway
Jackson, TN 38305

Phone: 731-668-1544 ext. 3
FAX: 731-664-7685
www.madisonscd.com

Chairman, Allen Verell
Vice-Chairman, Mike Pearson
Sec. –Treas., Joel Haynes
Member, Bob Bryant
Member, Don Johnson

Serving to Conserve
Madison County's
Natural Resources
Since 1941



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NEWSLETTER



MADISON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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A Word from Our Chairman



Agriculture is an important sector of our local economy. Well over half of Madison County's 358,000 acres are considered farmland. The sale of agricultural goods raised on Madison County farms average around \$25 million annually. The value of our farms is in excess on \$.5 billion. Last year USDA farm programs brought nearly \$5 million into Madison County of which \$2.8 million was for erosion work on farm lands and to repair county infrastructure to roads, dams, and creek channels. The money generated by local agriculture circulates several times throughout the various sectors of our local economy. As Chairman of the Madison County Soil Conservation District I am proud of the central role our District plays in agriculture and the greater community. I sincerely thank the local, state and federal governments, their many participating agencies, the local affiliated businesses and the many individuals 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 conserve their land, the water, and soil related natural resources benefit the greater community and assure productive farmland for future generations. Their work is indeed commendable.

Please visit the District's website at www.madisonscd.com. The site is packed with information about the District, Soil, Water, Plants & Animals, Conservation Programs, and Conservation Practices. It has several helpful links to sites related to conservation, soil, water, related government agencies, agriculture, and more.

Allen Verell, Chairman
Madison County Soil Conservation District

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.

The District is a recipient of taxpayer funding. If you observe an agency director or employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal, improper, or wasteful, please call the comptroller's toll free hotline: 1-800-232-5454.



313 North Parkway
 Jackson, Tennessee 38305

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 Serving Madison County since 1941

(731)664-1544 x 3
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Board of Supervisors

Allen Verell
 Chairman

Mike Pearson
 Vice-Chairman

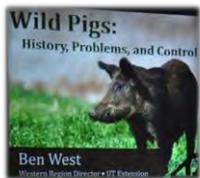
Joel Haynes
 Secretary-Treasurer

Bob Bryant
 Member

Don Johnson
 Member

Annual District Awards and Appreciation Banquet 2012

Over 100 guests attended the District's annual awards and appreciation banquet held on March 15th at the Madison County Agricultural Complex Auditorium. Attendees enjoyed a steak dinner catered by Richard's of Bolivar. Guests included several sponsors, State Representative Jimmy Eldridge, and Madison County Commissioners Barbara Johnson, Katie Brantley, Gary Tippet, "Smokie" Joe Roland, and Scott Brown.



Dr. Ben West with the West Tennessee Research and Education Center was the guest speaker. Dr. West gave an interesting and informative slide presentation on the ever increasing population of wild pigs in Tennessee and throughout the U.S. Dr. West discussed the history of pigs, reasons why the population is suddenly increasing and why they are so hard to get rid of once they are fully established in an area, problems they create for rural and urban landowners, and techniques that are used to control the population. The audience was enlightened by Dr. West's presentation and several stayed after the close of the meeting to further discuss the topic with the speaker.



Dr. Harris Lake Smith was recognized as the District's 2011 Outstanding District Cooperator. The flood of 2010 created several erosion problems on his fields along Mozie Creek. The creek banks had collapsed in several places and after each rain large gullies were advancing into his fields. He and his son Lake, and his farm operators Don and Mike Pearson sought technical assistance from the District and NRCS. Last spring small dams with large pipes designed according to NRCS standards and specifications were installed by Dr. Smith along the banks of Mozie Creek. The dams, designed to temporarily store storm runoff and direct it to the large pipes to safely drop water into the creek, stopped the advancement of gullies in his crop fields. The cost of the three structures exceeded \$10,000 which was paid in part through a cost-share grant from the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).



Last summer Dr. Smith took on another project, this time along the inner bank of Mozie Creek. It had been a problem for years and was a real eyesore to everyone entering Jackson along Highway 45 Bypass between Old Humboldt Road and Ashport Road. The storm runoff coming under the 45 Bypass (nearly 5,000 acres, draining all the way from Old Hickory Mall) was slamming straight into the bank of Mozie Creek just downstream from the 45 Bypass. After each rain more of the creek bank would collapse into the creek. The flood of 2010 greatly aggravated the problem. Dr. Smith and his son Lake approached NRCS, the District, and the West Tennessee River Basin Authority for technical assistance. NRCS engineers designed a 300 foot rock structure to reinforce the toe of the creek bank. Nearly 2,000 tons of rock riprap was brought in and strategically placed in the channel along the toe of the bank. The bank was shaped, mulched, and planted to grass and small trees. Today the area is no longer an eyesore. The cost of the work exceeded \$50,000 which was paid in part through a cost-share grant from the USDA-NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and from the West Tennessee River Basin Authority. In recognition of this work Dr. Smith earned the District's Outstanding Cooperator Award for 2011. Dr. Smith was joined at the banquet by his sons, Lake and Vernor. Dr. Smith's father, J. Harris Smith, was a charter member of the Madison County Soil Conservation District. He served on the board from 1941 until 1971 and served as board chairman from 1945 until 1971.

We thank our many sponsors for making the banquet possible. We also thank Sand's Old Hickory Florist for the beautiful floral centerpiece and Four Seasons Nursery for the 21 potted flowers and the \$25 gift certificate to Four Seasons that they donated. The potted plants, the gift certificate, and the centerpiece were given to the guests as door prizes.

Andrew Malton	Don Johnson & Couch Farms	Billy Jack Hopper	Gary Grisham	Teddy Hazlehurst	John Myers	Auto • Home • Life	James Wages	Kirk Goehring
			R & J Feed Supply	Sam Chhim Mike Harber	syngenta Crop Protection Brad Shumaker	JOHN DEERE Tennessee Tractor Chuck Crutchfield	Four Seasons Nursery And Garden Center 2489 Hwy 45S Jackson, TN 38301 731-668-3140	Sand's Florist 18 Old Hickory Cove Jackson, TN 38305 731-668-3140

Summer Employee



Ryan Blackwood will be working in the Jackson Field Office this summer through the first week of August as a student trainee with NRCS. Ryan is a senior at U.T. Martin where he is majoring in Agricultural Science Production. Last summer Ryan worked with the Obion County SCD. Ryan grew up in Lexington-Henderson County. He is a volunteer fireman and enjoys the great outdoors. Please welcome Ryan to Jackson-Madison County.

Conservation Cost-Share Programs Available

NRCS & TDA provide funding for conservation work to address erosion and water quality under the EQIP and ARCF programs. Practices include gully control structures, livestock watering facilities, grass establishment, cross fencing, winter cover crops and others. It is best if you sign-up before October 1st.



CRP - FSA has an on-going sign-up for certain CRP practices. These practices include filter strips, riparian forest buffers, bottomland hardwoods, upland bird habitat field borders, and STAR. The CRP program provides funding to take land out of production and to establish it to soil conserving wildlife friendly plantings, including grasses, forbs, and trees. Funding includes cost-share for establishment costs and an annual rental payment of up to \$157 per acre. Contact the FSA office.



WRP - NRCS has an on-going sign-up for purchasing easements to convert certain cropland back to wetland through the establishment of bottomland hardwoods. Easement acquisitions for Madison County are currently \$2,560/acre for crop and pasture land and \$1,480/acre for woodland. Contact the NRCS field office.



Conservation Compliance



Everyone participating in USDA programs is required to develop a conservation farm plan on each of their hill fields. Failure to follow these plans could result in the possible suspension of all USDA program benefits. Most all upland crop ground is required to either be no-tilled or planted to a winter cover crop such as wheat. As I traveled across the county this spring I noticed several hill fields that were more or less conventionally planted. Most all hill fields require at a minimum a winter cover crop or no-till to meet conservation compliance. Some fields must be no-tilled in order to meet compliance. Please check your conservation farm plans and contact me if you have any questions about conservation compliance or your conservation farm plan.



Land Clearing - "Sod Busting & Swamp Busting"

With higher commodity prices and an increased interest in center pivots there is an increase interest to clear trees and bring additional land in production. Anyone participating in USDA programs should contact me prior to clearing land. Failure to do so could result in Sod Busting or Swamp Busting violations and possibly the suspension of USDA program benefits. Cleared hill land, i.e., sod busted land, must follow a cropping system that allows for only the smallest amount of erosion. The steeper the land, the more restricted the cropping system. There is a provision for clearing and cropping small incidental areas, each less than an acre, which adjoins an existing crop field. The provision allows the cleared areas to become part of the crop field they adjoin and be cropped according to the field's existing conservation plan. However, this provision does not apply to areas determined to be wetland, i.e., swamp busted land. Swamp busted land, regardless of size, must be converted back to its prior state. Please check with me before you clear any land or bring additional land into production.

Thanks,

Brad Denton

District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Jackson Field Office

Madison County SCD Hosts the TACD Convention

Feb. 26, 27, 28



The Madison County Soil Conservation District hosted the 68th Annual Convention of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts. The three day meeting was held at the Double Tree Hotel in Jackson. Over 250 farmers, district supervisors, district and NRCS employees, and others from across Tennessee attended the convention. The Key note speaker was Tennessee's 8th District Congressman, Mr. Stephen Fincher. Other speakers included John Larson, CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Dan Eager, with the Tennessee Department of

Environment and Conservation, David Salyers, Executive Director of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority, Craig Brown, Vice President of Producer Affairs with the National Cotton Council, Joe McKinnon, Regional Field Representative with Tennessee Farm Bureau, Charles Hord, Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, and Jim Weaver, President of the Britton Lane Battlefield Association. The meeting was excellent and included, in part, an awards ceremony, the announcement of several scholarship recipients, and a live auction for scholarship funding. The meeting concluded with a banquet where everyone was entertained by the The Slaphappy Oldtime Stringband from Jackson.

Sprayer for Rent -



The District has a Fimco 25 Gallon Premium ATV Sprayer for rent:

Features:

3.8 GPM High-Flo Pump (11amp draw); Adjustable pressure (0-45 psi)
Pistol Grip Handgun that Delivers a 26 foot vertical & a 43 foot horizontal spray
96 inch lead wire with a quick coupler, In-Line Switch & Deluxe Battery Clips
Boomless Nozzle with a 20 foot spray width
\$25 per day - Call 731/668-1544



Drill for Rent - The District has a 10 foot wide Haybuster no-till drill that has the ability to handle NWSG seed. The drill is housed at and managed by the Mid-South Farmers Co-op in Madison County. It rents for \$7.50 per acre with a minimum charge of ten acres. For rental information and availability contact the co-op at 668-3070.

Don Johnson Reappointed the Madison County Soil Conservation District Board -



On April 1st the State Soil Conservation Committee reappointed Don Johnson for another 3 year term to the Madison County Soil Conservation District Board. Don lives in the Denmark-Huntersville community of western Madison County. He is a life-long farmer and a cotton ginner who has served on the SCD board since 2003. Don was selected by the State Soil Conservation Committee from a list of recommendations submitted by the local nominating committee. The committee was composed of members from local agricultural boards including the SCD, Madison County Farm Bureau, the FSA County Committee, and the Madison County Extension Committee. Don is one of two supervisors appointed to the board. They serve on the board with three elected supervisors.