

# **Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District**

## **2005 Annual Report**

October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005

The Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental agency responsible for the conservation and preservation of our natural resources. The District consists of a Board of Commissioners, District employees, District Auxiliary, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel. The Commissioners are: Jim Harreld, Chairman, Bruce Craft, Secretary/Treasurer, Dennis Rankin, Billy McMullen, Harold Ray Tyner, and Mike Patrick. District employees include: Celia Miller, District Administrator, and Sarah Johnson, Information & Education Specialist. District Auxiliary includes: Tina Craft, President, Francis Bozeman, Sec/Treasurer, and other members. USDA/NRCS personnel are: Tom Heard, District Conservationist, Bruce Hearn, Soil Conservation Technician, and Robert Massey, Soil Conservationist. This diverse group works closely to ensure the conservation needs of Madison County are met.

Financial support for the District comes from the Madison County Board of Supervisors and an annual membership drive. The Board of Supervisors' support is critical to the successful accomplishment of the District's programs. Support from sponsors and members funds vital Information & Education activities, annual Tree Give-Away, various field days, garden tours, and many other programs.

The District provides specialized equipment to farmers and landowners for erosion control work. Available equipment is listed below. Also available are aerial photographs of Madison County. The Madison County SWCD is one of the leaders in state of the art digital technology offering color infrared aerial photos with a variety of overlays in sizes up to 36"x36" and Global Positioning System services.

The Information and Education Program actively promotes conservation education through various activities throughout the year. These programs are designed to reach all ages. The District Website provides information on numerous conservation programs and vital links to government and private environmental agencies. District programs are also highlighted with photographs of the events. Please visit our website at: <http://madisoncountyswcd.org>.

### **DISTRICT INFORMATION & EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- Hosted the 21st Annual Membership Banquet - 182 attended
- Sponsored Conservation Fair for 500 5th grade students
- Published a newsletter, "The Conservation Journal"
- Participated in the MS State Envirothon with three teams competing
- Hosted Central Area Envirothon competition for 15 teams
- Hosted Madison County Cattlemen's Association with NRCS personnel providing technical demonstrations
- Sold over 2,000 trees and gave away 10,000 trees during Tree Planting Week
- Sponsored countywide poster and essay contest

- Hosted Project Earth Environmental Education Workshop
- Sponsored 4 teachers for environmental workshop
- Sponsored Fall Fest & Garden Tour with approximately 35 residents attending
- Promoted conservation to garden clubs and other civic organizations
- Conducted water quality training to more than 550 local students
- Sponsored Earth Day Programs for 350 students
- Maintained a resource library on conservation to assist teachers and others
- Maintained District website providing environmental and educational information and links
- Hosted the Warren A. Hood Soil & Water Conservation Youth Camp for more than 40 students

### **Accomplishments of NRCS Partners**

- Individuals receiving assistance – 2,160
- Individuals applying conservation practices - 145
- Units of government assisted - 23
- Ponds, lakes, and sediment basins surveyed and designed - 72
- Farmers assisted - 180
- Homeowners assisted – 850
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program plans developed - 48
- Total acres of conservation practices applied – 7,800
- Total acres of conservation buffers applied – 200
- Total acres of trees planted – 450
- Total acres improved through tree practices – 1,900
- Total tonnage of soil saved by erosion control measures – 29,500

### **Area and District Awards**

- MACD State 1st Place Essay Winner (9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade) – Michael Mattox, Rosa Scott School
- MACD Central Area 1st Place Essay Winner (9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade) - Michael Mattox, Rosa Scott School
- MACD Central Area 1<sup>st</sup> Place Poster Winner (2<sup>nd</sup> –3<sup>rd</sup> grade) – Brooke Martin, Tri-County Academy
- MACD Central Area Commissioner of the Year – Jim Herrald
- Central Area Conservationists of the Year – Ozborn Farms owned by Terry and Deborah Ozborn
- District Conservation Farmer of the Year – Oliver and Dorothy Gordon
- District Conservation Educator of the Year – Ann Campbell
- Wildlife Conservationist of the Year – Dan and Judy Grafton
- District Conservationist of the Year – Ozborn Farms

### **Equipment**

The District owns and leases the following:

15 foot John Deere No-Till Drill  
 10 foot John Deere No-Till Drill  
 15 foot Hydraulic Box Blade  
 10 foot Pasture Aerator  
 Paratill subsoiler  
 Terrace Plow  
 12 yd Dirt Scraper

## **?? DID YOU KNOW??**

**The conservation partnership brought in \$5 to every \$1 in our budget! In excess of 550,000 was provided to the Madison County Board of Supervisors for the protection of public roads and property. Bank stabilization was completed to protect county roads and bridges from damage caused by erosion.**

### **New Employees**



Robert Massey, USDA Soil Conservationist, joins the Madison County conservation team.



Sarah Johnson, Information and Education Specialist, joins the MCSWCD

### **Winning entries in the 2005 Poster & Essay**



Brooke Martin, Tri-County Academy  
MACD Central Area 1st Place Poster Winner (2nd –3rdgrade)



Michael Mattox, Rosa Scott School  
MACD State 1st Place Essay Winner (9th -10th grade)  
MACD Central Area 1st Place Essay Winner (9th -10th grade)