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ANNUAL REPORT

SEMINOLE SOIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SANFORD, FLORIDA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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I N D E X

SECTION 1.	GENERAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES
SECTION 2.	FARM PLANNING & APPLICATION
SECTION 3.	INFORMATION & EDUCATION
SECTION 4.	SCS COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES
SECTION 5.	MISCELLANEOUS
SECTION 6.	ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK
SECTION 7.	FINANCIAL REPORT

SECTION 1

GENERAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The district program and conservation activities progressed steadily during 1957. Monthly reports of the WU conservationist submitted to the Board of Supervisors, plus observations of established conservation practices on the land, gives good indications that the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service did a creditable job of providing technical assistance to the farmers and cooperators of this District.

January and February was the end of a long dry period in our District. A few scattered showers began in March and continued through April. Above normal rainfall was recorded in May. June and July continued to be rainy; however, the rainfall up to this time was pretty uniformly spaced, as far as the time element was concerned, and very little run-off occurred. The water levels in local ponds, lakes, and streams began rising slowly in August and most of them were back to about normal by December as considerable rainfall came during September, October, and November.

The severe freeze of December 12 and 13 did untold damage to citrus, pastures, and vegetables of the District. One cooperator recorded a low of 18 degrees in the Paola section and 20 in the Oviedo section of the District.

John Winter was assigned to the District on 14 February as an engineering aid. Winter came to the district with nine years experience with The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. His services rendered to the district are greatly appreciated and should speed up our conservation program.

Other visitors and technicians who rendered some technical assistance to this district during 1957 are: Colin D. Gunn, State Conservationist,

SCS, Gainesville; Hamp Dasher, Assistant to State Conservationist; Howard Bissland, State Biologist, SCS, Orlando; F.B. Blickensderfer, Plant Materials Specialist, SCS, Sarasota; and Al Swartz, SCS, Area Conservationist, Orlando; Elmo Dowling, Assistant State Extension Engineer, Gainesville; and Jack Barraclough, U.S. Geological Survey, Tallahassee. In addition to the Work Unit Conservationist and Engineering Aid assigned to the District we received part-time assistance from the Soil Scientists and engineers assigned to the Area Headquarters in Orlando. We are grateful for the advice and services rendered to our district cooperators by these men.

SECTION 2

FARM PLANNING AND APPLICATION

During 1957 Twenty-five new cooperators signed agreements with the District, to carry out needed conservation measures on their land. These new agreements covered approximately 5,326 acres. Twenty-five basic conservation plans were also worked out with district cooperators last year. We now have a total of 310 active conservation plans covering approximately 52,298 acres being carried out by local cooperators. Over 195 of these cooperators received some form of technical assistance from the technicians assigned to the District. Several non-cooperators also received some technical assistance in solving their Soil & Water problems.

Some of the major conservation practices applied to the land this past year are; Cover-cropping-679 acres, Pasture Planting-1226 acres, Mulch Tillage-660 acres, Conservation Crop Rotation-86 acres, Silage harvested-3150 tons, Fire-breaks constructed-224801.Ft., Reforestation Natural-462 acres, Fish Ponds Improved- 4, Wildlife Improvement- 98acres, Ditch constructed- 9.05 miles, Drainage or removal of surplus water- 520 acres, Irrigation Water Mgt.- 384 acres, Spoil Bk. leveling-10,000 Cu. Yards,

and Tile Drains-- ~~22,350~~ 20,350 Lin. Ft..

One of our major conservation problems is Water Control. This includes drainage, irrigation, and plugging of abandoned flowing wells. Another serious problem in the district is the lack of a good workable sod-based rotation for the vegetable producing areas in the district. The majority of the vegetable growers knows their land is heavily infested with various types of nematodes and also lacks sufficient organic matter; however, they ~~are~~ are faced with an economic situation of limited acreage and high taxes and therefore feel they cannot let their land be put to a grass sod for two or three years. A few cooperators have recently started planting both a Summer and a Winter Cover crop and following this with an early Spring truck crop. The normal practice on the vegetable producing areas around Sanford is to plant two or three truck crops during the Winter months and then a cover crop during the Summer. We hope that the economic situation will soon straighten out to where at least some of the larger cooperators will begin practicing this badly needed sod-based rotation. Other conservation problems in the district are wind and water erosion in young citrus groves and on vegetable fields; however, this problem can be readily seen by the landowners and is being adequately taken care of by establishment and maintenance of cover crops of hairy indigo and crota-laria.

Pasture planting in this district slowed down considerably during 1957. We believe this was brought about by high prices being paid for land, higher taxes, and a somewhat lower price for beef.

SECTION 3

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

THIRTEEN timely news articles were prepared and published in local news papers. Six films on conservation were showed to approximately 140 adults and 170 school students.

Copies of our 1956 annual report were given to leading citizens, Cooperators, and Civic organizations. Twelve talks on conservation were given to schools and civic clubs. Ten Supervisors meetings were held during the year and was advertised as being open to all interested landowners.

Conservation teaching guides and materials were presented to every class in the public school system of Seminole County. Particular interest was shown in the South Side primary school in Sanford by one class teaching conservation. The Pinecrest Elementary school also showed considerable interest by beginning a forest project on their own school grounds. The local technicians assisted in this project.

One of the high lights of our information and education program last year was our public speaking contest which was participated in by five contestants from county high schools. This event was held in conjunction with a regular Farm Bureau meetings membership meeting which was attended by approximately 100 Farm Bureau members. The district awarded \$50 in cash prizes to the contestants.

Our local bankers award was presented to Elbert Cammack by R.J. Bauman, President of the Sanford Atlantic Bank. This presentation was made during the annual Christmas party of The Seminole County Farm Bureau. The attendance at this meeting was one of the largest in the history of

the local Farm Bureau.

The Supervisors of this District attended the public hearing called by the U.S. Army Engineers on the proposed Sanford-Titusville canal. At this meeting a list of questions, received from various district cooperators, concerning the possible effects of the proposed canal was presented to the Engineers.

The local technician and supervisors attended all called workshop meetings during the year.

Soil Stewardship Sunday materials were obtained by the District and presented to the local Ministerial Association to be distributed to local churches. One church and one Sunday School class are known to have used the materials.

We feel that considerable progress was made in our Information and Education program last year. We also feel that this important portion of the conservation program should continue to be kept constantly before the public.

SECTION 4

SCS COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Supervisors of this district feel fortunate in having as their secretary and treasurer Cecil Tucker, local County Farm Agent. We feel that the cooperation and relations with this agency has improved the district program and has been advantageous to both agencies. Elmo Dowling, Assistant Agricultural Engineer with the Extension Service in Gainesville, visited the district on at least one occasion to render advice and assistance to the District.

Dr. R.V. Forbes
Dr. Phil Westgate and other personnel at the Central Florida

~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE DISTRICT~~

Experimental Station were very cooperative in making soil analysis.

The District is very thankful for their advice and services rendered to the cooperators of the District.

Our district has worked closely with the local ACP administrator and county committee in formulating the local county program. Our Work Unit conservationist provided technical assistance in servicing ACP Referrels on specified practices.

Close cooperation has been observed between our local SCS technicians and the local farm forester.

The following agencies have been very beneficial in rendering assistance to the district; The U.S Geological Survey, The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and the Farmers Home Administration. We believe that the cooperative efforts of these agencies has enabled its The district to further ~~max~~ over-all conservation program.

SECTION 5

MISCELLANEOUS

We are proud of the fact that our District led the State in total number of votes cast for supervisors during the past two elections. We feel that this accomplishment was due chiefly to the approval of the merits of our conservation program. Robert E. Lee, local rancher, was elected to the Board of Supervisors to replace supervisor Henry Wight.

John S. Winter was added to the Work Unit staff as a part time engineering aid. We appreciate this additional help; however, Mr. Winter serves as a part time engineering aid and we feel that a permanent conservation aid is needed to effectively carry on the district program.

SECTION 6

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES FOR 1958

1. Sponsor local participation in State Soil & Water Public speaking contest. More interest is being shown this year than ever before.
2. See that each class room in the public schools is equipped with a set of guides and teaching materials for teaching conservation in the schools. This job is practically completed since over 200 sets were presented to the School Superintendent's office last year for distribution to the various classes.
3. Sponsor and promote the Soil Stewardship Sunday program.
4. Cooperate with the local Bankers' Association in the selection of District cooperators for the Bankers Award.
5. Publicize the District with timely news articles, and by presentation of talks, and showing of films to local civic clubs, schools, and etc..
6. Continue to hold regular monthly Board Meetings.
7. Plan on holding at least one Board meeting in a different area of the District and invite all cooperators and land owners to attend.
8. Make one Board meeting a dinner meeting and have Supervisors' wives as guests.
9. Initiate and promote a constructive program to close or plug the wild flowing wells in this District. This is becoming a serious problem in our district. There are an estimated several hundred such wells that discharges from 50 to over 1000 gallons per minute from each well. This is a tremendous waste of water and is also detrimental to many acres of surrounding farm land.

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1957 ANNUAL REPORT RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY:

BONNER L. CARTER, Chairman-----

Bonner L. Carter
Signature

RALPH HAMMOND, VICE Chairman-----

Ralph W. Hammond
Signature

C.A. WALES-----

C. A. Wales
Signature

W.W. LINZ-----

W. W. Linz
Signature

ROBERT E. LEE-----

Robert E. Lee