

SEMINOLE SOIL-CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 1962

SANFORD, FLORIDA

INTRODUCTION

The Seminole Soil Conservation District was organized by a group of interested local landowners in the latter part of 1948. The district follows the county boundaries and include all land and water in Seminole county. Seminole county was created and organized in 1913 and covers approximately 205,440 acres or roughly 321 square miles.

The district is a governmental subdivision of the State of Florida and is managed by a board of five (5) supervisors who are elected by the the landowners who live within the boundaries of the district. A special election is held every two years to elect supervisors to manage the district. Each supervisor is elected for a four year term. In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot a nominating petition with the signatures of twenty-five or more qualified electors must be sent to the State Soil Conservation Board at least 30 days before the date set for the election.

As supervisors we plan and guide the district program. Our activities include; Receiving, reviewing, and approving applications for technical assistance from both individuals and from groups of landowners; Determining priorities for work areas; Formulation of individual conservation farm plans and the follow-up work essential to the application of such plans; Keeping records; Attending local, State, and area meetings to keep informed on the latest developments and improvements in the conservation program; Prepare annual reports and keep the public informed on district activities and accomplishments. Our services are free of cost to the landowners as we receive no pay or any form of compensation.

Our concerted efforts are directed towards providing assistance to landowners in developing basic conservation farm plans and establishing the conservation measures necessary for the conservation of the soil and resources and for the improvement of agriculture in Seminole county.

Through a memorandum of understanding with the US Department of Agriculture and a supplemental memorandum with the Soil Conservation Service trained technicians are assigned to the district to assist in carrying out the district program. The technical assistances provided by the Soil Conservation Service technicians are free of cost to the cooperators and landowners in the district. These technical services consist mainly of; Assisting groups and individuals with planning and developing conservation farm plans; Making standard soil surveys of all lands within the farm boundaries; Making preliminary investigations, topographical surveys, staking out, designing, and supervising the construction and installation of drainage systems, irrigation systems, and the necessary water control structures; Stocking of private ponds; Development of wildlife areas and the planting of food strips for wildlife; Improving woodland areas by construction of firebreaks, controlled burning, and drainage of excess surplus water; Planting of improved pasture grasses; and the Planting of leguminous cover crops in Citrus groves and on the truckland in this district.

Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the Seminole

District are Ben Wiggins, the Work Unit Conservationist, and John Winter the conservation engineering technician. Engineers and Soils Scientists assigned to the area office in Orlando are also available to the district on a part time basis.

The present Board of supervisors consist of; Ralph W. Hammond, Chairman; C.A. Wales, Secretary & Treasurer; W.W. Linz, vice-chairman; Supervisor Jack P. Dodd; and supervisor Elbert Cammack. An election will be held this year for two supervisors.

Other personnel and agencies assisting in carrying out the district program are; Bill West and Don Farrens Vo-ag instructors at local schools; Curtis Green-local representative of the Farmers Home Administration; Homer Ballard-office manager of the ASCS office; Drs. Phil Westgate, R.V. Forbes and other members of the Central Florida Experiment Station; Cecil Tucker ill and members of his staff of the County Agent's office; The local Farm Forester, county forest rangers; and the secretary of the local Farm Bureau office.

The population of this district has more than doubled during the past few years and the industrial plants and the rural housing developments are steadily increasing every year. This rapid expansion has created many new problems relating to land and water conservation. Rainfall during 1962 was about 10 inches below normal and many of the ponds and lakes either went completely dry or reach an all-time low. Numerous requests were received from cooperators and other landowners for assistance with irrigation systems. Several more large tracts of agricultural land was sold during the year for housing developments. Interest is extremely high for a water control project covering the entire county. Local legislators have been instructed to enact necessary legislation that will enable the county commissioners to proceed with a county wide water control program. A joint application with the Orange Soil Conservation District for assistance under public law 566 was made for the Econlockhatchee River Basin.

ACTIVITIES

Soil Stewardship week was again sponsored and promoted by the district this year. Fifty sets of materials were distributed to local ministers and church leaders in the district. Seven churches are known to have used the materials in their sermons. Program inserts were provided to three churches that requested them. More requests have been received for Soil Stewardship materials this year than ever before.

The district again sponsored the public speaking contest and awarded fifty dollars to the three top winners in the local contest. Allen Sandifer was the winner for the second time and was awarded \$25.00 for first place. The second place winner received \$15.00 and the third place winner received \$10.00. Considerable interest is also developing for the 1963 contest.

Twenty-two news articles were prepared and published by the local news papers. Eight talks were given to local garden clubs and to civic organizations. Five school teachers were given assistance with the teaching of conservation in their class-rooms. Assistance was also

to three Boy Scout Troops and to several individual scouts working on their conservation merit badges.

Nine regular meetings were held by the Board of Supervisors during the year. The discussions at these meetings enabled us to get a better understanding of the existing and new problems and the proper methods of solving the soil and water problems within the district. We feel that these regular meetings are necessary in order for us to do a creditable job of managing the district program.

The Soil Scientists, assigned to the Orlando Area Office, made tremendous progress in 1962. According to reports from Al Furman, the area soil scientist, a total of 191,854 acres had been mapped as Standard Surveys as of December 31. Standard Soil Surveys are scheduled to be completed on all agricultural land in this district by June 1963. Furman is now in the process of gathering information to be included as part of the finished survey of this district. The completion of the soil survey work will greatly speed-up the planning and the application of conservation work in this district. The completed survey will also be very useful to our county officials and to all citizens in the district.

Considerable progress was also made towards our ultimate goal of working out basic conservation plans with all farmers, ranchers, and growers in the district. Thirty-three new cooperators signed agreements with the district for technical assistance in developing farm plans during the year. Thirty basic plans were worked out with local cooperators during 1962 and nine basic conservation plans were revised during this period.

The application of conservation practices on the land also increased during the past year. Some of the major practices applied are: 65 acres of marginal land were crowned or bedded to remove excess surface water; 3292 acres of leguminous cover crops were planted; 3398 acres of crop residue use; 7,500 feet of field ditches; 14,800 feet of firebreaks were constructed; 14,715 feet of Mains & Laterals; 11 Grade stabilization structures; 7 structures for water control; 13000 feet of tile drains; 686 acres of improved pasture grasses were planted; and 2 farm family fish ponds were stocked during the year. Technical services were rendered to 262 cooperators during the year and 152 cooperators applied one or more practices on their farms.

DISTRICT PROGRAM FOR 1963

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>HOW</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHO</u>
Participate in the State Soil & Water Public Speaking Contests.	By providing awards and publicity.	Mar-Aug	Supervisors WU Technician
Hold Regular Board Meetings each month.	Notices by mail	4th Wed. each month.	Secretary

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>HOW</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHO</u>
Continue to promote planning and application of conservation practices on the land.	By providing technical assistance and guidance.	Jan.-Dec.	Supervisors & Technicians
Promote and assist in Soil Stewardship week.	By purchasing guides and materials from our NASCD and distributing them to local ministers & church Leaders.	May	Supervisors & WU Technician
Cooperate with local Bankers in the selection of cooperators for Banker's award.	By contacts with Bankers and conducted tours of eligible farms.	Dec.	Supervisors & WU Technician
Provide and erect additional signs.	By purchasing them from NASCD and erecting them according to instructions from State Rd Dept	March	Supervisors Technicians
Publicize District Operations.	By: Talks to schools, Civic clubs, Boy Scouts, By showing films and by conducting planned tours.	Jan-Dec	All Supervisors and Technicians
Continue to promote the closing of abandoned flowing wells.	By demonstrations and publicity.	Jan-Dec.	All Supervisors and technicians

MISCELLANEOUS

At the close of 1962 our district owned one rotary-type mower valued at approximately \$125.00 and one Martin-Type ditcher valued at approximately \$50.00. A small rental fee is charged to the users of this equipment to help pay depreciation and cost of repairs.

The Seminole county commissioners approved a budget request, submitted by our Board for \$495.00 towards paying part of the expenses of running the District. This appropriation is to be used for paying district expenses such as; Telephone bills, Soil Stewardship materials, expenses of supervisors to attend out of county meetings, Awards and educational materials, district office supplies, and district signs.

C.A. Wales
C.A. Wales- Secretary
W.W. Linz- vice chairman
Jack P. Dodd-supervisor
Elbert Cammack-supervisor

1962 Annual Report Respectfully Submitted:

Ralph W. Hammond
Ralph W. Hammond-Chairman

1962 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

I. GENERAL

1. Is the District Treasurer bonded? (yes) (no)
2. Was an audit of district receipts and disbursements made for 1962? (yes) (no)
3. Clerical assistance received - full-time _____, part-time _____.
4. District has (no.) Road Boundary Signs none none

II. SPEAKING CONTEST

1. Number schools participating 2.
2. Number student contestants 5.
3. Estimated number people hearing speeches _____.
4. Amount prizes awarded \$ 50.00 275

III. SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

1. Number of churches participating _____.
2. Number of sermons delivered on soil stewardship _____.
3. Estimated number of people attending services 7.
4. Other 550.

Program inserts were provided and used by three churches

IV. BANKER'S AWARD PROGRAM

1. Number selected for award _____.
2. Award made at 0 Meeting attendance _____
(Kind of meeting)

V. TOURS OR SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

1. Number held _____ Attendance _____.
2. Purpose 3 165.

To acquaint Teachers, Students, and Farmers with district program.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Number of conservation pictures displayed _____
(banks, stores, etc.)
2. Number for fair or special programs _____

1

VII. DISTRICT PROGRAM

1. Explained to (no.) _____ (club, school, or group)
2. Attendance 8.
3. Number radio programs presented _____ T.V. _____.
4. Number of newspaper releases 0 0.
5. Printed district annual report copies distributed _____.

100

VIII. SCOUTS

1. Number of Scout Troups assisted _____.
2. Kind of Assistance 4.

Talks & Tour; Work on Conservation Merit Badges,

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES (land judging contest, essay, poster and etc.)

1. What _____.
2. Results none none.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District Seminole Sanford, Florida Florida
 (Name) (District Office) (State)

Period: January 1, 1962 to December 31, 1962

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)		
Balance Brought Forward (Dec. 31, 1961) and to include amounts in savings accounts	\$115.87 ✓	
Co. Bd. Commissioners (supplies, equipment, aids, clerical help & etc.)	\$495.00	
Receipts from rental of district equipment	\$397.00	
TOTAL	XXXXXXX	\$1007.87
EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)		
Co. Bd. Commissioners (Total Expenditures for District)	\$495.00	
Supplies and Repair of District equipment from district account.	\$230.85	
TOTAL	XXXXXXX	\$ 725.85
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (Dec. 31, 1962)		\$ 282.02