

SEMINOLE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1958 ANNUAL REPORT

SANFORD FLORIDA

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The main purpose of our district is to provide local farmers, growers, and ranchers with the necessary technical assistance in developing and establishing sound Soil and Water Conservation practices on their land.

There are approximately 25 different soil types in this District. These soils range from deep muckland soils to high, draughty, infertile, white sands. Many problems have been brought about recently because of economic conditions. Many acres of marginal and sub-marginal land have been cleared and put into production. Several ranches have been sold within the past two years for potential developments. All this adds up to a need for stronger conservation practices or better management on the remaining farm land.

Proper water control is the chief problem in our district. Irrigation is needed on practically all cropland during the dry seasons and removal of excess water is required during the wet seasons. Flowing wells are used as the chief source of water on practically all row-crop or vegetable land. A good many of these flowing wells, estimated to be over 500, that were drilled many years ago are now rusted-off at or below the ground surface and are now abandoned or left as wild flowing wells. In addition to the wasting of many millions of gallons of precious fresh water, these unchecked wells are rendering many acres of valuable cropland worthless by the build-up of chlorides and other minerals on the good farm land around each well.

Another difficult problem in this district is the necessity for a good sod-based rotational system to be established on the truck crop land. Most of the truck crop land in this district is class IV land

underlain by hardpan or marl and contains a system of tiles that are used for both drainage and irrigation. The assessed valuation on this land is extremely high; therefore, each farmer feels that he must produce two crops a year in order to pay the taxes and make a living. They feel that they cannot divert any portion of this farm land to a grass-seed rotation and continue to pay the high taxes. From the constant use of tractors and equipment this land has become compacted and heavily infested with various nematodes. Due to a lack of organic matter the movement of air and water through the soil is extremely slow.

Interest in conservation in this district remains high. During the year many requests for information, talks, materials on conservation, and technical assistance were received from local schools, Scout troops, churches, and civic clubs. A good many cooperators seem to realize that with increased taxes, increased population, and increased developments the remaining farm land will have to produce more and that greater care will be required in order to keep the land productive.

No changes were made in our board of supervisors during the past year. Supervisors serving during the year were: Benner L. Carter, chairman; Ralph Hammend-Vice chairman; C.A. Wales; W.W. Lins; and Robert E. Lee.

Our board held eight (8) supervisors meetings during 1958.

SCS personnel assigned to the District were Ben Wiggins-Work Unit Conservationist and John Winter- Engineering Aid.

Cecil Tucker II, Seminole County Agricultural Agent, served as secretary and treasurer to the Board.

Other personnel and agencies assisting with carrying out the district program were; Dr. Phil Westgate and Dr. R.V. Forbes and other members of the Central Florida Experiment Station; Bill West Ve-Ag instructor

at Seminole High School; Curtis Green-local representative of the Farmers Home Administration; The local Farm Forester and the local forest rangers; and the local Farm Bureau organization.

Some of the remaining conservation needs in the district are: More sound water control practices including both drainage and irrigation; Sed-based rotations on cropland; Winter cover crops for cropland and citrus land; Winter pasture grasses and legumes that are better adapted to the soils and climatic conditions of this area; Better improved range management practices; More woodland tree planting and fire control measures; and improvement of wildlife areas to provide supplemental feed for wildlife during the winter months.

ACTIVITIES

The following goals and accomplishments were performed in 1958:

1. We participated in the State Soil and Water Conservation public speaking contest. The district elimination was held in the Longwood civic center in conjunction with a supper meeting with the local Farm Bureau. Approximately 125 local farmers and citizens heard marvelous talks on conservation. The contest was so close that each of the three judges selected a different contestant for the first place winner. A total of fifty-five dollars was awarded to the contestants by the District supervisors.
2. Additional copies of teaching guides and materials for teaching conservation in the school system were presented to the school superintendent's office for distribution to the class rooms that were short.
3. Soil Stewardship Sunday was promoted and more interest was created this year. One informal meeting was held in the Methodist Church in

Oviedo. Twelve copies of sermons and other materials were distributed to local ministers. Three churches are known to have used the materials. Approximately 450 people heard good sermons on Soil Stewardship.

4. No Bankers award was made last year; however, we feel that this is a worthwhile project and are including it in our goals for 1959.

5. Twelve timely news articles concerning conservation were published in the local news papers last year. Four films were shown to Vo-Ag classes and to several classes in the Grammar School. At least 12 talks on conservation were made to schools, garden clubs, and civic clubs during the year. Four tours of local pastures, engineering work, and land capability or soil classifications were made during the year.

6. Eight regular District supervisors meetings were held during the year. Two area meetings were attended, and one State Supervisors meeting was attended by three supervisors from this District.

at
7. One meeting was held in the camp site on C.S. Lee's Ranch, which is located in the S.East portion of this District.

8. Supervisor Robert Lee was host to all supervisors, and the Work Unit Conservationist, the Secretary and their families one Saturday afternoon. A tour of the ranch was made in open trucks and many good management or conservation practices were observed. Very good water control measures were being practiced; Rotational grazing and other good management practices were being applied on all pastures; and excellent woodland and wildlife management practices were also being carried out. Several deer and wild turkeys were observed during the tour. After the tour delicious steaks were served to the group by Robert and Jane Lee.

9. Very little progress was made towards getting abandoned or wild

flowing wells plugged or closed. A few wells were plugged; however, there are an estimated over 500 such flowing wells in the District that needs to be plugged. These abandoned wells discharges from 50 to over 1000 gallons of water per minute from each well. This is a tremendous waste of fresh water. Also many acres of valuable farm land is becoming worthless by high concentrations of chlorides and other minerals filtering out of the water into the areas around the the wells. The majority of these wells needs to be closed or plugged at least 5 or 6 feet below the ground surface; therefore, it is rather expensive. We are looking and hoping to find a cheap method that can be used satisfactorily. We will continue to promote this practice by attempting to educate the land owners and the general public about the necessity for a program of closing the wells.

10. Considerable progress was made last year towards our ultimate goal of working out basic conservation plans with all farmers in the District and getting the necessary conservation measures applied to the land. Twenty-five agreements were signed with new cooperators covering over 6,000 acres last year. Sixteen Basic conservation plans were worked out with cooperators, and eight basic plans were revised during the year.

SEE ATTACHMENT NUMBER FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM FOR 1959

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>HOW</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHO</u>
1. Promote farm planning & application of conservation of practices.	By providing technical assistance.	Jan.-Dec.	Supervisors & SCS personnel.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>HOW</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHO</u>
2. Participate & Promote conservation through State Soil & Water Speaking Contest.	Publicity and by providing awards.	Feb.-April	All Supervisors and Werk Unit Technicians.
3. Continue to promote the teaching of the Conservation of our Natural Resources in the School system.	By providing the materials or guides, talks, and etc..	Jan.- Dec.	All Supervisors & SCS Technicians.
4. Promote & Assist in Soil Stewardship Week.	By supplying copies of Sermons & Materials and talking to local Ministers.	May	All Supervisors & SCS Technicians.
5. Publicize District Operations whenever Possible.	Talks to Civic Clubs, News Articles, Films, and Discussions with local citizens.	Jan.-Dec.	All Supervisors & SCS Technicians
6. Cooperate with local Bankers in the selection of cooperators for Award.	Contacting local Bank Presidents. Conducting tours of eligible farms.	October	All Supervisors & SCS Technicians
7. Held Regular Board Meetings.	Secretary will mail advisory notices.	Each Month or When Called	All Supervisors SCS Technician Secretary
8. Held one Board Meeting in Different Area of District.	By making Advance Notice and Arrangements.	November	All Supervisors SCS Technician Secretary
9. Held One Dinner Meeting with Wives as Guests.	"Dutch"	August	All Supervisors SCS Technician Secretary
10. Continue To Promote The closing of abandoned flowing Wells.	Publicity and Demonstration.	Jan.-Dec.	All Supervisors SCS Technician.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

The District owns one used, Martin type, ditcher valued at approximately \$ 125.00 and one used, reter-type mower valued at approximately \$200.00.
See Attached Sheet For Complete Financial Statement and Annual Audit.

1958 ANNUAL REPORT RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY:

Banner L. Carter, Chairman -----

Signature

Ralph Hammond, Vice Chairman -----

Signature

C.A. Wales -----

Signature

W.W. Linz -----

Signature

Robert E. Lee -----

Signature

1958 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

I. GENERAL

- 1. Is the District Treasurer bonded? NO YES
- 2. Was an audit of district receipts and disbursements made for 1958? _____

II. SPEAKING CONTEST

- 1. Number schools participating TWO FOUR
- 2. Number student contestants 325
- 3. Estimated number people hearing speeches _____
- 4. Amount prizes awarded \$ _____

III. SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

- 1. Number of meetings for ministers ONE attendance Three
- 2. Number of tours for ministers Three attendance _____
- 3. Number of churches participating Three
- 4. Number of sermons delivered on soil stewardship 450
- 5. Estimated number of people attending services _____
- 6. Number of posters used in sponsoring 0
- 7. Number of covers used by churches for programs 12
- 8. Number of copies sermons distributed to ministers 12
- 9. Number of copies of other materials used _____

IV. BANKER'S AWARD PROGRAM

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

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

- 1. Number held To Acquaint Supervisors and Farmers, and Students with District operations. attendance _____
- 2. Purpose _____

VI. EXHIBITS

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

VII. DISTRICT PROGRAM

- 1. Explained to (No.) 12 450 (club, school or group)
- 2. Attendance _____
- 3. Number radio programs presented 12 T.V. 100
- 4. Number of newspaper releases _____
- 5. Printed district annual report copies distributed _____

VIII. BOY SCOUTS

- 1. Number of Scout Troups assisted Two Talks on Conservation (Merit Badges etc)
- 2. Kind of assistance _____

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 1. What Files, were shown to Vo-Ag. classes and Grammar School classes
- 2. Results Excellent with all classes submitting more requests. Additional copies of outlines and materials for teaching Conservation public exhibits were given to School Superintendent for distribution.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District SEMIOLA SEMIOLA Florida
(Name) (District Office) (State)

Period January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)		
Balance Brought Forward (Dec. 31, 1957)	315.62	
Rental of Mower	379.50	
TOTAL	XXXXXXX	695.12
EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)		
Service & Repair of Mower	291.27	
Telephone Service	92.45	
Speech Contest Awards	55.00	
Delegate State Convention	50.00	
Insurance on Mower	23.01	
State Dues	20.00	
State Convention Registration Fee,	10.00	
Audit Fee	10.00	
Office Supplies & Postage	8.40	
Speech Materials for Contest	5.00	
TOTAL	XXXXXXX	565.13
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (Dec. 31, 1958)		129.99