

SEMINOLE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1960 ANNUAL REPORT

SANFORD FLORIDA

INTRODUCTION

The Seminole Soil Conservation District was organized by a group of local land owners in the latter part of 1943. 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 265,440 acres or roughly 321 square miles.

The district is a governmental subdivision of the State and is managed by a board of five (5) supervisors who are elected ^{by} landowners who live within the boundaries of the district. A special election is held every two years to elect supervisors to manage the district program. Next July three supervisors will be elected and two years later the election will be for two supervisors. 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 (25) 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 and approving applications for technical assistance from individual landowners or groups of landowners; Determining priorities for work areas, formulation of individual conservation plans within such areas, and the follow-up work essential to the application of such plans; Keeping records; Attending local, area, and State meetings to keep informed on the latest developments and improvements in the conservation program; Prepare annual reports; and keep the public informed of district activities and accomplishments. Our services are free as we receive no pay or any form of compensation.

Our concerted efforts are directed towards providing assistance to landowners in developing plans and establishing the conservation practices necessary for the conservation of soil and water and the general improvement of agriculture.

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 services of the technicians are free of cost and are available to any cooperator or landowners in the district. Their main services consist of; assisting groups and individual landowners with planning and developing farm plans; making detailed soil surveys on all land on individual farms; designing and staking out adequate tile and open ditch drainage systems; proper irrigation systems; water control structures; wildlife improvements; fish pond renovation, stocking, and fertilization; the woodland improvement practices of tree planting, controlled burning, and fire-break construction; crop rotations; cover crops; pasture planting and improvement; and other conservation or good management practices that will benefit the present land owners and at the same time insure that the land will remain productive and that the water supply will remain adequate for future owners of the land.

Our present Board of Supervisors consist of; Robert E. Lee-chairman, Ralph Hammond-vice chairman, and members C.A. Wales, Bonner Carter, and Jack P. Dodd. Technicians assigned to the district are; Ben Wiggins-work unit conservationist and John Winter-engineering aid. Technical assistance was also provided by Bob Jessup-area engineer with SCS from Orlando, and Horace "Shorty" White-soil scientist with SCS from Orlando.

Other personnel and agencies assisting in carrying out the district program were; Curtis Green, local representative of the Farmers Home

Administration; Bill West, Vo-Ag instructor at Seminole High School; Drs. Phil Westgate, R.V. Forbes, and other members of the Central Florida Experiment Station; Charles Chellman, local Farm Forester; Bob Leverett, local Forest Ranger; Cecil Tucker II, County Agent; Ernest Lundberg, Assistant County Agent; Florence Mapes, Secretary to Cecil Tucker II; and the local Farm Bureau.

Interest in the Soil and Water conservation program remains high in this district. Numerous requests for technical assistance with soil and water problems were received from schools, clubs, county officials, housing developments, and other non-farm groups and individuals. An increased number of requests were also received from farmers, ranchers, and growers for assistance with land capability and water control problems regarding planting citrus on marginal lands. Several tracts of farm land and groves were lost to businesses, housing developments, and roads during the year.

During the past year regular or continuous rains for about seven months caused enormous damages to many housing developments and to many groves. Many acres of both young and old or mature groves were severely damaged by too high a water table. In fact several areas of old, mature trees, approximately 35 years old were killed. Some of the damaged areas could have been saved from severe damage if an adequate water control system had been installed before the rains started. The ponds and lakes without outlets still have a high water level and as of December 31, 1961 many homes are still flooded. Interest is extremely high for a long range water control program for the District.

A C T I V I T I E S

Our district again participated in the State Soil and Water

Conservation public speaking contests in 1960. Billy Alford, an FFA member and a senior at Seminole High School won the district award for the second time. Billy also won 3rd place award in the area eliminations for the second time. Interest in this phase of our program remains high as more schools and contestants have indicated a desire to participate in the next contests.

Soil Stewardship week was again promoted and considerable interest was noted. Twelve set of guides and materials were presented to local ministers and church leaders and three churches are known to have used the materials in their sermons.

Several talks on conservation were given to Scout troops, Garden Clubs, Civic Clubs, and Schools by our technician. Eighteen timely news articles were prepared and published by local news papers in regards to conservation of our soil and water resources. Five films were shown to local school students and Vo-ag classes on conservation during the year. Several outlines for teaching conservation in our public schools were presented to new teachers who had not already received them. Our technician also served as counselor for conservation merit badges with local scout troops. Four tours were conducted to acquaint teachers, instructors, and FFA students with soils, land capability, and the conservation practices being applied in this district.

Nine local supervisors' meetings were held during the year. One area meeting was held at the Lake Alfred Experiment station with the main topic of discussion being on "The production of citrus on marginal and wet land soils." Attending this meeting were; Ernest Lundberg, Assistant County Agent, Ben Wiggins, Work Unit Conservationist, and supervisors Ralph Hammond and C.A. Wales. The State FASCD meeting in Jacksonville was attended by supervisor Wales and our technician.

Standard soil survey mapping under the leadership of Horace "Shorty" White, soil scientist from the Orlando area, made tremendous progress during 1960. According to soil survey reports standard surveys were made on 26,722 acres during the year. As of December 31 the total land mapped as standard surveys amounted to 95,072 acres. According to White standard soil surveys are scheduled to be completed on all agricultural land in this district sometime in 1962. The completion of the soil survey work will certainly speed up our conservation program activities and will also be extremely valuable to the county engineer, zoning director, and other county officials as well as all citizens who live within the district.

Considerable progress was made towards our ultimate goal of working out basic conservation plans with all farmers, growers, and ranchers in the district and getting the necessary conservation measures applied on the land that will insure its productivity for future generations. Twenty-five basic conservation plans were worked out with local cooperators during the year. As of December 31 over 400 basic plans covering over 49,000 acres had been worked out with cooperators. Twenty-eight agreements were signed with new cooperators during the year, and four basic plans were rewritten ~~in 1960~~ in 1960.

See Attachment For Statistical Information

District Program For 1961

<u>Activity</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Continue to promote planning and Conservation application of practices on the land.	By providing technical assistance and guidance.	Jan-Dec.	Supervisors & SCS Technicians.
Hold regular board meetings.	Secretary will mail notices.	The 2nd Tuesday of each month or when called.	Supervisors SCS Technician Secretary

<u>Activity</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Participate in the State Soil & Water Speaking Contests.	By providing awards and publicity.	Feb-Aug.	Supervisors & WU Technician
Promote and Assist in Soil Stewardship Week.	By purchasing guides and materials from NASCD and giving them to local ministers, and church leaders.	May	Supervisors & WU Technician
Cooperate with local Bankers in the selection of cooperators for Bankers' Awards.	By contacts with Bankers and conducted tours of eligible farms.	October	Supervisors & WU Technician
Publicize District Operations.	By writing news articles showing films, tours of district, and by giving talks to schools and civic clubs.	Jan-Dec.	Supervisors & WU Technician.
Continue to promote the closing of abandoned flowing wells.	By Demonstration and Publicity.	Jan-Dec.	Supervisors & WU Technician.

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

AT the close of 1960 our district owned one Martin-type ditcher valued at approximately \$75.00 and one rotary-type mower valued at approximately \$200.00. A small rental fee charged to the users of this equipment was the only source of income received by our district until the latter part of 1960. 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. The approved appropriation went into effect on October 1, 1960. See attached sheet for complete financial statement and annual audit.

1960 Annual Report Respectively Submitted By:

Robert E. Lee, Chairman -----

Robert E. Lee

Ralph Hammond, Vice chairman-----

Ralph W. Hammond

Bonner L. Carter, Treasurer-----

Bonner L. Carter

C.A. Wales -----

C.A. Wales

Jack P. Dodd -----

Jack P. Dodd

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District _____ (Name) _____ (District Office) _____ Florida (State)

Period January 1, 1960 to December 31, 1960

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)		
Balance Brought Forward (Dec. 31, 1959) and to include amounts in savings accounts	\$ 8.10	
From rental of Tractor & Ditcher	\$64.00	
TOTAL	XXXXXXXX	\$72.10
EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)		
Payment on Tractor	\$281.30	
Telephone Bills	77.75	
Breaking Awards to FFA	70.00	
State Dues	60.00	
Repairs to Equip.	40.40	
Insurance on Equip.	27.00	
Office Supplies & Postage	12.25	
Audit--1959	10.00	
Stewardship Booklets	3.00	
TOTAL	XXXXXXXX	\$552.70
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (Dec. 31, 1960)		\$ 12.40

Info.

Seminole Soil Conservation District

¹⁹⁶⁰
~~1959~~ STATISTICAL INFORMATION

I. GENERAL

1. Is the District Treasurer bonded? No
2. Was an audit of district receipts and disbursements made for 1959? ¹⁹⁶⁰ Yes

II. SPEAKING CONTEST

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

III. SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

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

IV. BANKER'S AWARD PROGRAM

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

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

1. Number held Four attendance 145
2. Purpose To Acquaint Farmers, Teachers and Students with Land Capability and the Conservation practices being carried out in this District.

VI. EXHIBITS

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

VII. DISTRICT PROGRAM

1. Explained to (No.) Eleven (11) (club, school or group)
2. Attendance 550
3. Number radio programs presented 0 T.V. 0
4. Number of newspaper releases 18
5. Printed district annual report copies distributed None

VIII. BOY SCOUTS

1. Number of Scout Troups assisted Two
2. Kind of assistance Talks on Conservation and Counselor for Merit Badges

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. What Five films were shown to schools and V.O.B. classes.
2. Results Additional Educational Materials were presented to local schools and to the library for one Boy Scout Troup.