

Montgomery County



Soil Conservation District

2018 Annual Report

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT is one of 95 districts in Tennessee established under Tennessee State Code— 43-14-218. Local districts are responsible for conservation programs within their counties. A Board of Supervisors, five local residents who are recommended by a local nominating committee and appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee, administers each district.

The MCSCD was chartered September 1944 by founding board members James G. Childers, Cuyler Dunbar, David Hinton, Banks Batson, and James W. Cross, Jr. Current board members (pictured above row 1, row 1):

Johnny Head, Chairman
Paul McKinney, Treasurer
JD Bumpus, Vice Chairman
Cody Greene, Member
Richard V. Davis, Member

MCSCD MISSION

Soil erosion control and water quality improvement are the primary concerns of the District. It is our mission to coordinate assistance and develop locally driven solutions to our natural resource problems. We strive to inform land users on ways to reduce erosion and improve water quality through a comprehensive program of technical, financial, and educational resources and making them available to our clients without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religious belief, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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“Conservation farming put first things first by attending to the needs of the soil—by seeing to it that the starting-off place, the base, is put into sound health and kept that way. Any other approach, no matter what it may be, always has and always must lead eventually to agricultural disaster.”

*-Hugh Hammond Bennett
"Father of Soil Conservation"*



PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERTIVE AGREEMENTS AND PROGRAMS

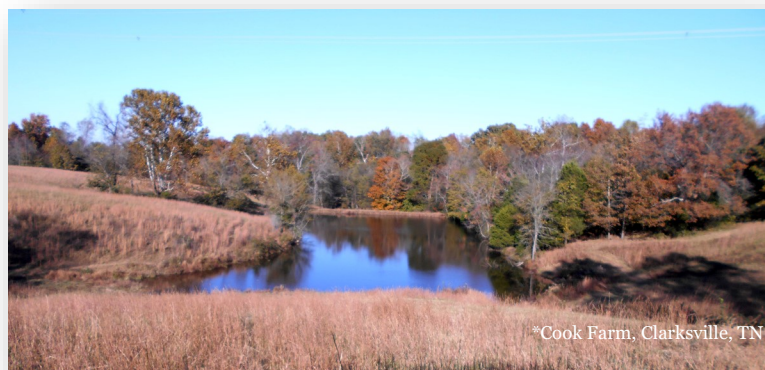
The MCSCD works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, to assist local landowners with technical and financial assistance to plan and install various conservation practices that address resource concerns on their property. Landowners can request assistance through many different government programs administered by our office. Through a cooperative effort with the landowners we address resource concerns of Montgomery County and other communities downstream. It is important to realize these programs are available on a voluntary basis with the environmental gains attributed to the landowner's actions. Additionally, these projects provide an economic boost to the community through local contractors and suppliers. With a cleaner environment we are less likely to see more environmental regulations.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. CSP provides two types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.

- ♦ **307 NEWLY contracted acres in CSP**
\$63,489.00
- ♦ **\$29,252 paid out for contract fulfillment**
on 714 acres



CONSERVATION RERSERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing the technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation. It encourages framers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grass, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Landowners receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost share is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

- ♦ **\$47,010 were paid on continuing CRP contracts for FY 2018**



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) *is a voluntary program that provides financial cost-share and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.*

Montgomery County received \$101,924 in NEW EQIP funding allocated to farmers, operators and residents in 11 new contracts on 664 acres for the 2018 contract year.

- ◆ 1,022 Acres cover crop
- ◆ 1 forest management plan
- ◆ 114 acres of forest stand improvement
- ◆ 1.5 acres conservation cover
- ◆ 10 acres of brush management

\$135,263 PAID to Montgomery County contract holders on completed and applied conservation practices in fiscal year 2018.

- ◆ 1,414 acres cover crop
- ◆ 13 acres early successional habitat development/management
- ◆ 419' fence
- ◆ 1 forestry management plan
- ◆ 784 sq. ft. heavy use areas
- ◆ 682' livestock pipeline
- ◆ 222 acres prescribed grazing
- ◆ 4 acres No-till residue and tillage management
- ◆ 1 acre riparian forest buffer
- ◆ 1 watering facility





TN DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE— AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION FUND (ARCF)

The ARCF provides cost-share assistance to Tennessee landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce agricultural water pollution. This assistance is facilitated through Soil Conservation Districts.

♦ **\$ 56,797 funding for installed conservation practices on 12 completed contracts and an additional \$40,000 in approved funding.**

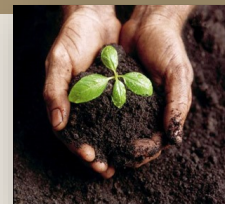
- * 664 acres of cover crops promoting soil health
- * 10 watering alternative watering facilities
- * 10 heavy use areas
- * 5,141 ft. of water pipeline
- * 1 water tap
- * 360' streambank protection/restoration

♦ **32 applications for FY 2018 ARCF projects totaling \$150,868 in assistance.**

Practices include:

- ♦ 3 contracts for streambank repair/restoration for water quality on more than 550' - \$43,500
- ♦ 10 alternative watering facilities
- ♦ 5,263 feet of water pipeline
- ♦ 11 heavy use areas
- ♦ 2 grade stabilization structures
- ♦ 5 grassed waterway projects
- ♦ 2,584 feet of cross fencing for rotational grazing
- ♦ 1 pumping plant
- ♦ 1 spring development

**Total Appropriated benefit to Montgomery County landowners, residents
and farming operators through the
Montgomery County Soil Conservation District:
\$772,597**



“Many farmers—most farmers, and that means millions—need some technical help in making the change to this more efficient, easier, and more productive type of farming, and they need also moral support and encouragement.”

*-Hugh Hammond
Bennett*

2018 Financial Overview Conservation Programs

USDA/NRCS/FSA:	Funds:
CSP	\$92,741
EQIP	\$237,187
CRP	\$47,010
Operational Funding	<u>\$257,000</u>
	\$633,938

TDA:	
BMPs	\$96,797
Operational Funds	\$ 3,100
Equipment Grant	0
Technician assistance	\$ 4,186
Supervisors Per Diem	<u>\$ 1,230</u>
	\$ 105,313

Montgomery County Funding:	
Operational Funding & Salaries	\$ 33,346

FY 2018 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Soil erosion control and water quality improvement are the primary concerns of the District. It is our mission to coordinate assistance to Montgomery County's land users using the technical advice and planning expertise of the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- ◆ Soil conservation plans developed/revised on 2,364 acres of land
- ◆ Technical assistance provided to more than 300 land users
- ◆ Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality on 5,118 ac.
- ◆ Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability on 1,880 ac.
- ◆ Cropland with an applied Soil Health Management System on 708 ac.
- ◆ Land with conservation applied to improve water quality on 6,349 ac.
- ◆ Grazing land with conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance on 954 ac.
- ◆ Non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat on 150 ac.
- ◆ Conservation applied to improve environmental quality on 7,257 ac.
- ◆ Montgomery Co. received and processed 142 applications totaling just over \$999,065 in request for assistance
- ◆ \$165,423 in NEW funding was allocated to farmers/operators in Montgomery Co.
- ◆ total of \$268,322 paid to cooperators for installed practices

**Statistics taken from USDA PRS Reporting—Field Measures by office*

*"The nation that destroys
its soil, destroys itself."*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt



*McKinney Farm, Woodlawn, TN

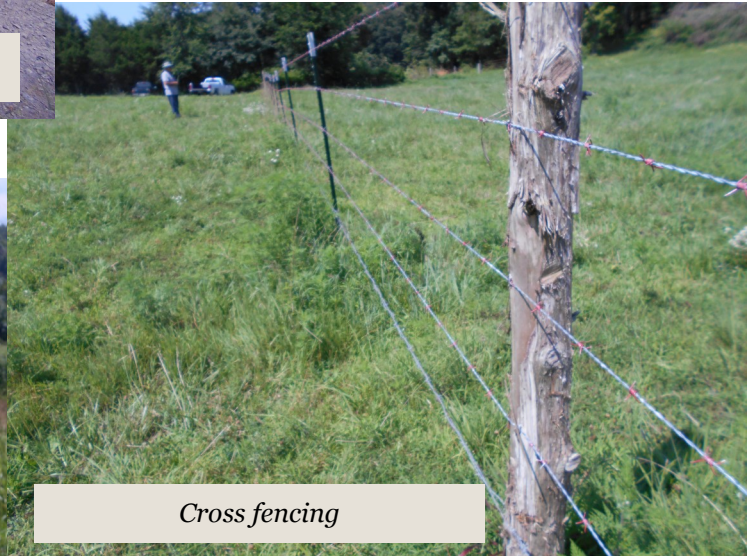
**2018
Conservation
Management
Practices
installed in
Montgomery County**



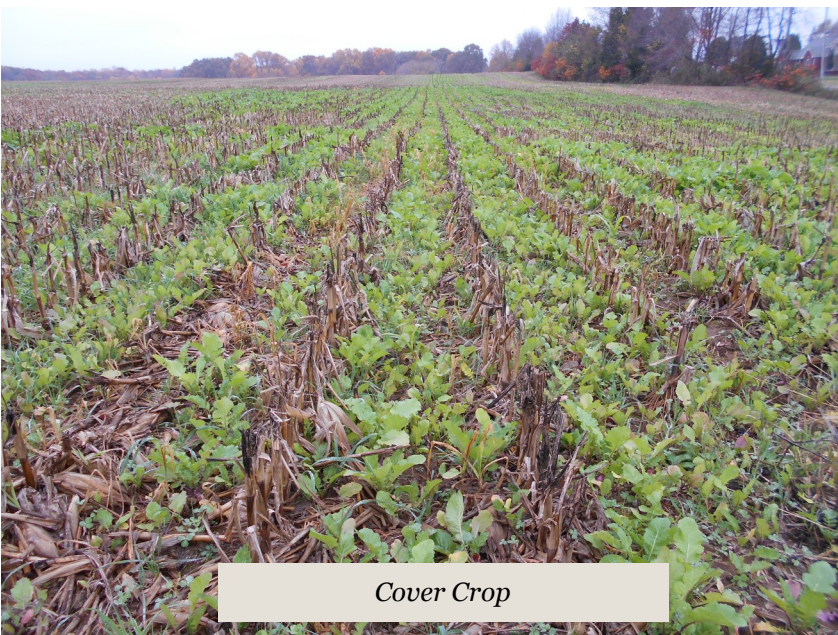
Watering Facility & Heavy Use Area



Streambank Restoration



Cross fencing



Cover Crop



HUA Site Construction

Streambank Protection



CRP buffer strip



4 ball frost proof watering facility



Cover Crop—Soil Health Mix



Grade control structure



\$772,597 invested in conserving the
land in Montgomery County through
programs offered with the Montgomery
County Soil Conservation District



COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Conservation Education is a Very Important job for MCSCD.

To educate people of all ages, in both rural and urban areas, to appreciate natural resources and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations. Through conservation education, people develop the skills necessary to understand the complexities of natural resource problems. MCSCD, along with the partnerships of Five Rivers RC & D, The Tennessee Division of Forestry, USDA-Farm Service Agency, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of TN Extension and neighboring Soil Conservation Districts provide education and outreach in a fun way to learn about local soil and water resources to both youth and adults. Through classroom presentations, workshops, and field days MCSCD can share how to recognize resource concerns and how to address them with conservation practices.

Few people think about the importance of soil, but it provides us with a lot more than just stable ground. Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, plentiful crops and forest, productive rangeland, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Each year MCSCD proudly recognizes some of those who strive toward Conservation practices, and those who support Agriculture and Conservation efforts.

Hands-on experience with



Austin Peay State University has a working agreement with the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors for students to earn extra credit hours by working in the Soil Conservation District Office to get hands-on experience that will help guide them into the right agricultural field for their career.

The David E. Hinton Scholarship

The David E. Hinton Scholarship was created in 2002. It is available to qualifying High School Seniors in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. The applicant must be a graduating senior who plans to attend Austin Peay State University and major in an agriculture-related field (Ag-Business, Ag-Science, Ag-Communications, Environmental Studies, Pre-Vet or Pre-Forestry).

**2018 recipient—
Taylor Buckner of
MCHS.**





ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET 2018 & FARM CITY WEEK



The Montgomery Co. Soil Conservation District together with the Kiwanis Clubs of Clarksville, recently hosted their Annual Conservation Awards Banquet & Farm -City Program the 30th of October. This year's event was the 64th Awards Banquet for the District, honoring more than 20 recipients. Each year the District, Downtown Kiwanis, Hilldale Kiwanis, Montgomery Co. Farm Bureau, Montgomery Co. Conservation Club, Clarksville Chamber of Commerce come together to honor award recipients. Honorees are those that have shown exceptional efforts in conservation and agriculture, conservation education, conservation progress, and youth agriculturally based contests in Montgomery County. Soil Conservation District Chairman, Johnny Head and Kiwanis Club



Agriculture Committee Chair, Chris Lanier, opened the program welcoming more than 185 attendees.

Mayor Jim Durrett presented a Proclamation for Oct. 28-Nov.3 as Soil Conservation & Farm City week. The proclamation was exemplary honoring "those that have made outstanding contributions to conservation and agriculture in our community." C. David Elliott provided the Invocation before the meal and Passenger Creek Bluegrass Band's entertainment.



We would like to say express our gratitude to those that have continually supported this banquet, so that we may encourage and honor the efforts of our 4-H and FFA students and farmers in Montgomery County! Without you, this would not be possible:

CUMBERLAND BANK & TRUST
F & M BANK
LEGENDS BANK
PLANTERS BANK

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
2018 ASSOCIATE SPONSOR – SECURITY SEED & CHEMICAL





ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET 2018 & FARM CITY WEEK



MASTER CONSERVATIONIST AWARD

Bryant Brothers

Presented by Will Sanders, F & M Bank



CONSERVATION PROGRESS AWARD

Mark Barnett



CONSERVATION EDUCATOR AWARD

Danny Boner, MCHS

Presented by Dottie Mann, Hilldale Kiwanis Club



OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY AWARD

Ronnie & Jenny McKinney

Presented by Jay Albertia, Clarksville Chamber of Commerce



LESTER SOLOMON AWARD

George Marks (Received by the family)

Presented by Steve Taylor, Montgomery Co. Conservation Club



MCSCD HOSTS MID-TN GRAZING WORKSHOP



Montgomery SCD hosted a Grazing Workshop for Mid-TN folks interested in learning more about proper grazing techniques. Phil M. Baggett opened up his farm, home of ***TN Grass Fed Beef***, to more than **70 attendees** on August 16th.

Greg Brann, Grazing Coordinator for the TN Association of Conservation Districts (TACD) and Dr. Jim Green, Grazing Specialist, presented visual instruction and demonstrations on understanding plants, evaluating pastures, what happens when things go wrong, hay vs. graze economics, fencing and troubleshooting techniques, addressing feed shortages, protecting resources, and cost share program eligibility.

After the indoor workshop and farm tour demonstrations, attendees sampled the 100% grass fed beef burgers raised and processed on the hosting farm. Baggett has been working with USDA-NRCS for many years developing an effective and cost efficient grazing plan.

This event was sponsored by Montgomery SCD, the TN Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the TN Dept. of Agriculture. For more information on developing a grazing plan on your farm, please contact our office, 931-368-0252 x 3. To sign up for future workshops, visit our website.





2018 ENVIROTHON



Four teams of Montgomery County students competed in this year's ENVIROTHON which took place April 19, 2018 at the Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge in Dover, TN. **Eleven teams of students** from five different counties in the mid-state area were tested on their skills and knowledge of our natural resources in this contest sponsored by the Montgomery Co. Soil Conservation District & Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The competition was divided into five categories: wildlife,

forestry, soils, aquatics, and special category: rangeland management. Northwest High sending one team, 2 teams from Clarksville High, and 1 team from Montgomery Central High.

First place went to McEwen High (Humphreys Co) with Montgomery Bell Academy (Davidson Co) placing in second and third places. Finalists went on to compete in the State Envirothon at the Clyde-York 4-H Center in Crossville, TN. Each year State finalists move on to compete at the National Envirothon, this year to be held in Pocatello, Idaho.

For more information or to prepare for next year's competitions, contact Nancy Holt, 931-368-0252 x 3 or nancyl.holt@tn.nacdnet.net.



CLARKSVILLE HIGH



MONTGOMERY CENTRAL



NORTHWEST HS



2018 LAND JUDGING CONTEST



Each year the MCSCD sponsors a soil judging contest for high school students in order to promote Agriculture in the Classroom. This year's competition took place on the AP-SU Farm home site in September. Four pits were dug to enable student teams to use their soil judging skills to identify different layers within the soil, different textures and their land use. Winners were awarded at the Annual Conservation Banquet in late October.



1st PLACE 4-H LAND JUDGING TEAM

Holden Bennett, Jason Patton, Nena Cates

presented by Johnny Head for Farm Bureau of Mont. Co.

1st PLACE FFA LAND JUDGING TEAM

MCHS—Will Johnson, Devon Bowles, Fred Peters, Jonathan Atkins

presented by Johnny Head for Farm Bureau of Mont. Co.

2nd PLACE FFA TEAM

CHS FFA – Megan Summer, Will Comperry, Josephina Reyman, Austin Christian

presented by Barry Mayo, Security Seed

3rd PLACE FFA TEAM

NWHS FFA – Logan Huggins, Wade Leavell, Nolan Henry, Cassidy David

presented by Barry Mayo, Security Seed

OVERALL HIGHEST LAND JUDGING SCORE AWARD

Will Johnson, MCHS

presented by Johnny Head, Farm Bureau





2018 WILDLIFE JUDGING CONTEST



In conjunction with the Montgomery County UT Extension Service, Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Hilldale Kiwanis Club, this year's Wildlife Judging contest for students entailed planting a wildlife mixture of annual crops for wildlife consumption. Students were required to plant (1) five pound bag of seed. Seed was provided this year by Kentucky Lake Chapter of Quail Forever in Henry County.

1st PLACE YOUTH CONSERVATION WILDLIFE CONTEST

Garrett Ross, NWHS FFA

presented by Price Hopson, Downtown Kiwanis Club



2nd PLACE YOUTH CONSERVATION WILDLIFE CONTEST &

Best Records Kept

Will Comperry, CHS FFA

presented by Price Hopson



3rd PLACE YOUTH CONSERVATION WILDLIFE CONTEST

Taylor Adkins, Montgomery 4-H

presented by Price Hopson



Our Team

The Montgomery County Soil Conservation District is a division of the State of Tennessee government and is organized under the authority of the Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation District Act of 1939. Montgomery County's District was established by a special referendum of county landowners in September 1944.

The Soil Conservation District (SCD) works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical and financial assistance for landowners and agricultural producers in Montgomery County.



Nancy Holt
Admin. Asst.
MCSCD



Louis Boyd
District Technician
MCSCD



Janet Coleman
Soil Conservationist
USDA - NRCS



Kevin Hart
District Conservationist
USDA - NRCS



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Updates, announcements, &
workshops!

www.MontgomerySoilConservation.com



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