

Our LAND



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Don't pasture alfalfa and grasses during October. The plants need top growth to
build up root supplies and give protection to carry them through the winter and get
them off to a good start next spring. If farm feed is short and you must pasture, do
it after the weather turns too cold for further growth. Even then, don't graze too
close.

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Here's an added advantage of contouring. Harold Amundson, South Goodhue soil
conservation district, reports no waste from back swathing when field chopping corn
for the silo on contour strips. In square fields with straight corn, two rows of
corn are knocked down every time the field is split. On an 80-rod field that adds
up to about .21 acres. That's a loss of more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of silage. Or 12.5 bush-
els of corn, figuring 60 bushels to the acre.

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Working up pastures that have weeds or June grass in October will make earlier
seeding possible in the spring. It won't kill all June grass. But a seedbed prepar-
ed this fall will need only a harrowing in the spring before seeding. That means
seeding can be gotten out of the way before the rush of regular spring work starts.

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If you have questions about soil and water conservation or related subjects,
see your local county agent. He'll either answer it or pass it along to state or
national authorities.

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