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OUR LAND

Conservation farming has been a paying proposition for A. P. Anderson, Maple Plain. He was one of the first farmers in Hennepin county to cooperate with the Agricultural Extension Service in setting up a complete farm demonstration. His plan included an improved crop rotation application of phosphate fertilizer, contour strip cropping, and pasture renovation. Not only did he solve his erosion problem but he increased his production of all crops including pasture and hay.

Clarence Maschke, Young America, cooperater in the Carver county Soil Conservation District, had one of his best corn crops this year on his contour strips. He had no trouble keeping his drilled corn clean. He's convinced contour farming is the only way to hold soil and water on sloping land.

Cut down row crop acreage and increase the yield at the same time? Sounds impossible. But experiments by University Farm agronomists prove it can be done by following a good crop-legume rotation. Over a 30 year period, the experimenters found it took 82 acres to produce 3,000 bushels of corn a year when corn was planted on the same field year after year. But when they switched to a corn-grain-grain-hay-pasture rotation, they got the same number of bushels from 60 acres.

Q: When is the best time to spread barnyard manure?

A: Daily, if possible, throughout the winter. Nutrients leaching from the manure go into the ground wherever it is piled. If it is spread on fields, the nutrients will be recovered by following crops. Manure spread during the winter also acts as a mulch to retard erosion in the spring when the frost leaves the ground.