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# Our LAND



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Unpublished data from the soil division at University Farm indicates that commercial fertilizer applied to legumes may have more influence on increasing yield of roots than tops. This is important in view of the soil-building value of legumes, says Harold E. Jones, extension soils specialist. An experiment in Chippewa county indicated that while sweet clover tops were increased only from .9 to 1.4 tons from use of phosphate, root growth was increased from .8 to 2½ tons, more than three times as much roots after the first-year growth of sweet clover.

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For the second year, Rochester Chapter of Izaak Walton League is awarding certificates to the farm family in each of 18 townships in Upper Zumbro Soil Conservation District which does the most outstanding job of soil and water conservation. Families are elected by their neighbors through township Farm Bureaus. Winning families are guests of the League at a regular luncheon meeting.

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Tests at the University of Minnesota using radioactive tracers in commercial fertilizer show that alfalfa can effectively use phosphorus from fertilizer broadcast in the spring. Dr. Alfred C. Caldwell, professor of soils, says, "The tests show applied phosphorus can make up a large part of the phosphorus in the plant, conserving on soil phosphate and proving that applied phosphorus is not wasted."

\* \* \* \* \*

It actually happened. After Frank Witt, co-operator with Root River Soil Conservation District, improved 12 acres of permanent pasture, his 8-year-old grandson saw a couple of men kneeling in field inspecting the stand. "Guess they were just praying for grass and legumes to come up," he reported to his grandmother.

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