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Our LAND



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At least one cooperator with South Goodhue Soil Conservation District finds it is a good alfalfa seed producing area, reports Robert Anderson, SCS work unit conservationist, Wanamingo. This farmer harvested 20 bushels of clean seed from 9 acres last year in spite of a poor season.

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Tom Rinkob of Jackson uses a practical method of preventing winter soil movement. He plows as early in the fall as possible, harrows the ground immediately into a good seedbed, and seeds a light sowing of oats. The oats, and many of the weed seeds, grow enough to give a good cover. This cover, though killed by freezing, is enough to prevent blowing which might occur with a light snow cover.

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Even foxes are going "on the contour". Ronald Owens, cooperator with East Goodhue Soil Conservation District, reports seeing a fox on one of his hay strips. The fox could easily have crossed a stubble strip to the woods. But Brer Fox took advantage of the conservation improvements and followed the hay strip which gave him cover around the hill until it ran into the woods.

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Wouldn't you trade one dollar for 10? Several farmers in Minnesota did just that or better last year by increasing the yield of brome grass seed with nitrogen fertilizer, reports H. E. Jones, University Farm extension soils specialist. Nitrogen fertilizer top-dressed on brome grass just as the brome begins to grow in the spring has proved to be one of the most effective uses of fertilizer. Increases of 150-300 pounds per acre of seed have often resulted from the application of 100 pounds per acre of ammonia nitrate, says Jones.

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