

Our LAND



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In many cases, says C. O. Rost, University of Minnesota soils chief, installation of a drainage system enables the farmer to make use of otherwise idle acres. Frequently these acres are very fertile and their use will permit using land subject to erosion for long rotations in which grass and legumes are an important part. Use of these idle acres has the effect of enlarging the farm without moving the boundary fences.

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Kenneth Pedersen, Lincoln Soil Conservation District, who developed a complete farm conservation plan with help of SCS technician assigned to the district, sold \$1,417 worth of seed and hay from 26 acres of brome grass last year. Yield was 9,000 pounds of brome seed and 1,350 bales of hay.

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M. A. Thorfinnson, extension soil conservationist, recently received a request from Philip Behr of Paynesville, one of the first Extension co-operators in soil conservation in Meeker county, for a new soils map and symbol sheet. Behr had used them so much they were entirely worn out.

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Harvey M. Bjerke, West Concord, extension farm management specialist, reports that Art Svee, one of the farmers in his area, has found that by following a good crop rotation, including grasses and legumes, he has been able to maintain a good supply of humus in the soil. This has resulted in his fields being in condition during a dry season to make best use of available moisture. It is less likely that dry conditions will prevent fertilizer from being effective if we remember that soil kept in good condition will be better able to retain moisture available and give the fertilizer a chance to work. Proof of the correctness of Svee's cropping system is found in his crop yields. They have been above average in the yields of the S. E. Minnesota Farm Management Service for the past 9 years.

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