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Unchopped grass ensilage, which is no novelty in England, is now making its debut in Minnesota. At least one farmer has used the idea effectively during the past year and others are thinking about it.

Last year Norman Nellen, supervisor of Carver Soil Conservation District, put a small amount of unchopped grass silage in his trench silo as an experiment. It worked so well that recently he put 80 tons of unchopped alfalfa-brome into his trench silo. Hay was moved from the field with buck rakes and packed with an old iron wheel tractor. He reports good silage with less work and expense.

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Contestants at plowing contests in Minnesota this year will find that 15 per cent of their total score will depend on proper adjustment of the plow and tractor hitch, reports M. A. Thorfinnson, University of Minnesota extension soil conservation specialist.

Both the horizontal and vertical lines of draft will be considered in checking hitch adjustment, as these have a very important bearing on economy of operation. Both the coulter and jointers will be checked on the plow. In the contour plowing contest, the use of these is optional, but, if used, they must be properly adjusted.

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Besides being bad for the grass itself, over-grazing is hard on the soil, points out Ralph Crim, extension agronomist at the University of Minnesota. It reduces needed plant cover, causes the soil to become baked and hard, with the result that pasture doesn't grow well and water runs off rapidly.

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"One of the most interesting experiences was the terrace building program," states the Dakhue Soil Conservation District annual report for 1950. "Here we have had a big upsurge of interest." The statistical report lists eight and two-thirds miles of terraces built in 1950 and 37 miles up to date.

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