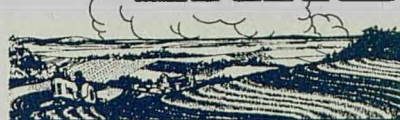


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Our LAND



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"How green is our valley," may be the comment of future farmers in the West Otter Tail Soil Conservation District. During this year alone, more than 60,000 trees have been planted by the district with the help of the State Conservation Department, Norman Ordal, local Pittman - Robertson man, and SCS.

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Carl Erickson of Mora has found the answer to a critical pasture problem, reports E. R. Duncan, University of Minnesota extension soils specialist. Erickson, who has been short of early spring and late summer pasture for his Holstein herd almost every year, has worked with the Kanabec county agent, Harold Brown, in setting up a program of pasture improvement. He is following these procedures:

1. Tests soil in the summer and limes according to need.
2. Plows the old sod in late August and applies fertilizer according to soil needs.
3. Seeds rye the first of September for good late fall pasture.
4. In the spring, as the ground is thawing and freezing, broadcasts legume and grass seed.
5. Pastures the rye as soon as it is up 2 to 3 inches and the field is dry.
6. Takes the cattle out when they start to eat the new legume and grass seeding.
7. After this, follows common sense management.

"The yield of forage and production of milk have proven that this procedure pays off," says Duncan.

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Medium grade yearling beef cattle are excellent for utilizing large amounts of rough feed, according to W. E. Morris, extension animal husbandman at University Farm. "They can clean up meadows and stalk fields and then be full-fed on silage and hay for 60-90 days, followed by a full feed of corn for 60 days, and marketed in June. These cattle can be cheapened materially by the large amounts of roughage and pasture they will consume."

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