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Our LAND



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Eight miles of windbreaks on his farm near Twin Valley testify to an interesting fact about Alfred Wiger -- he's interested in trees. Mr. Wiger, who is president of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts, has planted 10,000 trees in windbreaks to check wind erosion on his farm. Soil drifting is a big problem in the sandy Red River Valley area where Wiger lives. "A home on prairie land isn't really a home until it is planted to trees," says Wiger.

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"The importance of livestock in soil conservation has been recognized for many years," says E. F. Ferrin, chief of the animal husbandry division at the University of Minnesota. He quotes this statement from the book, The Cattle, Sheep and Pigs of Great Britain, by John Coleman, published in 1887: "We have a twofold object in feeding, viz., the production of meat and manure."

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Stanley Chromy, a 4-H boy from the Lanesburg-Star Club of LeSueur county, won a blue ribbon at the Minnesota State Fair with a demonstration of the conservation plan on his father's farm. He showed how virgin soil permits water to percolate through it, while eroded soil causes more runoff and soil washing. Stanley won first place at the LeSueur County Fair with the same demonstration. The idea was based on tips from Farm Planner Lynn Skaife of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

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Since the 4-H conservation program was started in 1944, it is estimated that club members in 45 states have helped apply conservation practices on nearly a million and a half acres of farm lands to stop erosion. In addition, many boys and girls have demonstrated the value of soil conservation at club meetings, local community gatherings and fairs. The county club agent or agricultural agent can tell more about this program.

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