

Our LAND



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Cows Test Grass ... It's too bad there isn't a quick, simple method of testing hay or grass for food value just as they test gold ore. But wait a minute. We can't test forage, but livestock can, and it's simpler than testing gold ore. That's what a cow is probably doing when she reaches through the fence for grass when there is plenty under her feet. Warren Gregg, SCS man with the Rock County Soil Conservation District, says that Leroy Staeffler, a farmer near Hardwick, noticed his cattle doing a little grass testing recently. Staeffler fertilized and reseeded several acres of an old pasture. His cattle show a decided preference for the improved area.

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Conservation and Prosperity ... "The prosperity of the farmer depends on conservation of the soil," believes 16-year-old Jerome Gernes, Winona, 4-H soil conservation demonstration champion at the 1952 State Fair. As part of his soil conservation project, Jerome outlined a crop rotation system for the home farm. It consists of 2 years of hay, one year of corn and one year of small grain. He points out that the rotation makes it possible to keep the workland in alternating strips of hay and corn and hay and grain. The Gernes farm consists of rolling land, and these strips help prevent soil from washing away, in addition giving better crop yields, says Jerome. Jerome also selected pasture land and made plans for improving it. A member of the Wilson Fireflies 4-H club, he has carried the soil conservation project 3 of his 8 years in club work.

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Junior Show Coming ... Those who visit the Junior Livestock Show at South St. Paul October 6-9 will be able to see the kinds of animals that do well as a part of a well-balanced conservation farm set-up, says Leonard Harkness, state 4-H club leader.

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