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Planning Cropping Program Pays -- The major objective of the cropping program on livestock farms is to provide, consistent with economy, the maximum amount of the right kinds of livestock feed, at the same time conserving and improving the soil for sustained and increased future productivity. W. M. Myers, head of the University of Minnesota agronomy department, says three things must be taken into account in a cropping plan: (1) what kinds of feed are required and in what proportions, (2) what cropping system will give maximum economical production of the necessary kinds of feed and (3) what cropping system is best for the land.

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Grass Cuts Water Loss -- Vernie Born, Carver County Soil Conservation District chairman of Cologne, lives on an exceptionally hilly and rolling farm and used to recover some of his seed corn in the form of well-fed bullheads caught in the lake into which part of his farm drains. "But those days are gone," Vernie says. This summer the last small acreage was prepared for grass seeding and now all the farm will be in grass. Vernie's neighbor, who has land between Born's farm and the lake, has noticed the difference, too. He used to get a lot of water rushing down through his farm from Born's land, but even with the heavy rainfall of the last three years, there hasn't been "any runoff to speak of".

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What About Fall Plowing? -- For best results next year plow heavy soil this fall, says Harold E. Jones, extension soils specialist with the University. Spring plowing heavy soils does not permit good seedbed preparation. In fall plowing, however, don't make the mistake many farmers made in the fall of 1952 by plowing soil when it is dry, Jones warns. The cost of plowing was very high and soil tilth was damaged in some cases. If fields are sloping enough to cause water erosion, delay plowing heavy soils until spring, he says. Spring plowing sandy soils is generally advised.

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