

University Farm News  
University of Minnesota  
Institute of Agriculture  
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

November 2 1953



Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural  
Extension Service.

For use during week of  
November 23

Grass and Legume Sod Crops Greatly Reduce Erosion -- Plowing and cultivation greatly increase the ravages of soil erosion. One of the most effective erosion control practices you can follow is to plant grass and legume sod crops. According to W. M. Myers, head of the University of Minnesota's Agronomy department, soil losses are from 200 to 2,000 times greater under a cultivated crop than under grass sod. Also, almost no organic matter is lost with grassland crops. Annual plowing is unnecessary and there is no soil tillage following their establishment. Result--breakdown of organic matter is greatly reduced and erosion and leaching losses held to a minimum. Finally, a grassland crop produces new organic matter in your soil.

\* \* \* \* \*

Better Efficiency for More Profit -- That was one of the points brought out by C. M. Ferguson, director of the federal Extension service, who spoke at the fourth annual Livestock and the Land Institute held at Albert Lea recently. Stressing the need for efficiency, Ferguson pointed out that a typical cornbelt farmer uses \$50,000 of capital per worker. To maintain high profits, each farmer will have to become more efficient in his use of time, machinery, animals and feeds.

\* \* \* \* \*

Balanced Farming Pays Off -- A crop rotation with the proper balance of grassland and grain crops will be the most profitable and will produce the most good feed on livestock farms. By good planning, a farmer can organize a profitable and productive crop program that is good to him, profit-wise, and good to his land, keeping it fertile for the future.

-hrj-