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Avoid Buying Non-Certified Alfalfa -- There's more certified alfalfa seed on the market than ever before--and at a fair price, too, says L. J. Elling of the University's agronomy department. He urges farmers not to try to save a few cents an acre by seeding uncertified seed. Uncertified Ranger alfalfa now is being offered farmers at a few cents a pound less. Elling says it's unwise to buy this seed expecting it to perform like certified Ranger--most of it was rejected for certification. It didn't meet high standards for purity that seed must to get the "certified" stamp of approval. So, be sure with certified seed. It has a known predictable performance non-certified does not.

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Five-Year Rotation Gives Good Oat Yields -- Studies at the University's Northeast Experiment Station at Duluth, reported by Wallace W. Nelson, station agronomist, show that the best oat yields over a 34-year period came from a five-year rotation, with about two tons of manure per acre applied every year. Rotations were of small grain, a row crop, and three years of hay. Oat yields on the five-year rotation were about six bushels higher than the three-year rotation and about four bushels better than the four-year rotation. Hay yields were about the same on all rotations. The five-year rotation had a higher nitrogen content and about a 10 per cent increase in organic matter over the three-year rotation.

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Two SCS Projects to Stop Erosion at Source -- Work plans for the West Willow Creek, near Preston, and Chippewa-Hawk River Basin, near Benson, are nearly complete. These watershed protection projects were authorized recently by Congress to help stop erosion losses at the source. The Soil Conservation Service and other agencies are cooperating in developing the plans. In addition to stopping erosion losses, the watersheds will help in flood control by keeping water on the land and not clogging creeks, streams and rivers.

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Many Good Grasses Help the Land -- University and Department of Agriculture agronomists have helped develop and adapt many land-nourishing legumes and grasses. See or call your county agent for up-to-date information on approved grass and forage crop varieties.

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