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Our LAND



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More Christianity Needed in Conservation Promotion -- "We need a greater sense of Christian responsibility to urge us to improve and extend our conservation efforts! This statement comes from Bishop Peter Bartholomew of St. Cloud. "We have definite obligations to our families, our communities and our country to leave our land in as good or better productive condition than when we found it," he went on. "The rich, undeveloped soils have almost vanished--they're all in production. We cannot, like great-grandfather, move 'onto another place' with new soil. We have only poorer land to move to."

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Tailor Your Tiling -- The first step toward proper drainage is getting an estimate of the cost and comparing it with possible yield increases. According to Curtis Larson, agricultural engineering at the University of Minnesota, tiling costs \$100 to \$150 an acre. He says at present prices a yield increase of about nine bushels of corn and four bushels of soybeans is necessary to cover tiling costs.

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Methoxychlor Won't Harm Hay for Cows -- Grassland and pasture sprayed with the new insecticide methoxychlor won't harm dairy cows that feed on the treated forage, according to USDA research. Nor will the chemical come out in their milk. In tests at the Beltsville Research Center, dairy cows were fed methoxychlor-sprayed hay and the scientists found that nearly 100 times as much methoxychlor as DDT--which often shows up in cow's milk--must be fed for the chemical to appear in their milk.

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Jefferson Put It Straight -- "While the farmer hold title to the land, actually it belongs to all the people--because civilization rests on the soil." Thomas Jefferson said it 130 years ago, and it's still true today.

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