

# Our LAND



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Cooperator Builds Cement Trench Silo -- Sheldon Sandager of Hills built a horizontal cement slab silo to help him use his grass silage more effectively and reduce labor in cattle feeding. The silo holds about 250 tons of grass silage. Fill for it comes from 40 acres of rotation meadows, part of Sandager's total conservation plan for his farm's future.

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Remembers Deep Gash in Land -- Homer Raguet remembers the heavy rains of 1923 and the deep gully they chewed into his folks' Hennepin County farm. He was only 13 then, but the gash made a big impression. It became a cavern 20 feet deep -- but it'll grow no deeper. Homer has made up his mind to that. Now, grass is beginning to climb the steep sides and "dished" terraces above catch rain water before it can dig deeper. The terraces were built in 1951 by the Hennepin Soil Conservation District. Sixteen gullies have been stopped cold in the Raguet neighborhood with terraces and diversions.

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Worrying About Land Changeover? -- Cyril and Gerald Meyer of Hay Creek Township, Goodhue County, are solving a pasture problem. They have a beef herd and find that the alfalfa-brome pasture grown in a four-year rotation with corn and grain produces much more than permanent pastures. Their solution was a combination of terracing and strip-cropping. The terraced fields lie near the farmstead for easy walking-to by the stock. But distant areas are strip-cropped and will produce grasses and legumes for hay and silage. Arnold Wiebusch, Soil Conservation Agent at Red Wing, says the Meyers' land is not the most easily adapted to terracing, but they will be well rewarded for the few inconveniences they may meet.

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A Striking Thought -- "In life and in action we unconsciously recognize ourselves as a part of nature. Our success and well-being depend on the closeness and "naturalness" of our relationship with the soil, trees and water." It sounds reasonable, then, that saving the soil and using carefully and thoughtfully are part of a wise man's pattern of living.