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# Our LAND



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Road Home is Longtime Wish -- Ralph Anfinson, 14 years a member of the East Fillmore Soil Conservation District, soon will see a long-held ambition fulfilled. He lives in very hilly, rolling country. For many years he has been working with the township and his neighbors to get an all-season road into his farm. Construction cost was thought to be very high because of expensive bridges and culverts. Now, however, final details are complete. A contour road across his and a neighbor's farm will join the main county road. It was an accomplishment that could only come about through cooperation of neighbors, the township board and conservation-interested county people.

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Good Liming and Inoculation Important to Legumes -- A good job of inoculating and liming legume stands is well nigh essential, especially true when you switch from red clover to alfalfa and sweet clover. According to Goodhue County Soil Conservation Agent Arnold Wiebusch, red clover nitrogen bacteria will live in a somewhat acid soil. But alfalfa and sweet clover nitrogen bacteria prefer soil limed to the "slightly acid" or "neutral" point. Wiebusch says a farmer can't expect much from alfalfa the first year or two after the first seeding in a switchover. Lime takes several years to mix with the soil. Alfalfa nitrogen bacteria take time to grow strong, too. Up to this point, a mixture of red clover and alfalfa and timothy and brome grass will make a surer stand--and in most cases such a mixture will out-yield straight alfalfa brome.

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Science Studies Wind Power -- The scientist is watching wind to find facts on what various kinds of barriers can do in saving crops, livestock and homes from wind. Wind on the run not only carries off topsoil but robs soil of moisture, piles snow in farmyards and spirals the cost of farmhouse heating. In leafy season, a 30-foot high shelterbelt reduces wind velocity three feet above ground by one-half and for a distance of 14 times the height of the trees. In winter, a 10-row shelterbelt can cut fuel consumption of the farm home between 20 and 30 per cent.

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Likes District -- "One thing I like about our soil conservation district is that it's under local management. First of all, though, it has helped us do a far better job of farming." That's one farmer's opinion about his district.

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