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Are We Overfeeding Cattle? -- In this day and age of high costs for raising livestock, are we overfeeding? Possibly so. A University of Minnesota livestock authority, E. F. Ferrin, reports a case of "unnecessary generosity" in feeding grade herds of beef cows in southwestern Minnesota. Production records showed that some herds were being fed grain during the winter when the roughage available was strong enough in the needed feed values. Ferrin explains that growing stock need generous feeding--and high quality feeding, too--but older animals can be fed more economically.

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An Unusual Value Check -- Marvin Rupprecht of Winona County operates a 160-acre farm six miles northeast of Lewiston. He has unique way of checking the value of his contour strips. Most of the water runoff from a 50-acre watershed passes through a bridge on the farmstead road. Before the field was laid out in strips, the land was farmed north and south, leading water off the land into the bridge, its opening is two by eight feet. Result: floods twice a year filled the draw and passed over the bridge and road. Since the contour strips went on and a rotation began operating in 1952, the water runoff is down to where the peak flow runs under the bridge--and not over it.

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Winner Reports a Year After -- How do those winners in soil conservation contests come out in the year or after? Here's one answer, from David Walters, a co-operator in the Lyon County Soil Conservation District, who won the Minneapolis Tribune contest last year. He says his contour strips are holding every shower and has resulted in good fertilizer and organic matter being added--and saving water, giving good yields even in dry 1955. Walters' view is that water for each acre is important--and that water can be had by contour stripping sloping land.

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Michigan Beach Grass For Sandy Areas -- Ever heard of Michigan beach grass, from the Lake Michigan sand dunes. Soil conservationists have found it wonderfully useful in Minnesota's sandy and blowout areas. The grass quickly makes itself at home in sand or sandy soil where moisture is good. It holds down sand and makes it possible to plant pine trees in that "almost total loss" land. It's been successfully tested in Sherburne County, 60 miles north of Minneapolis.

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