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Our LAND



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Good Oat Silage Proves Money-Maker -- Ivan Sanderson of Goodhue County tells how he discovered the value of good oat silage--but in a little different way than most folks have. When his oats were in the "milk" stage, he took his chopper and cut out all weedy spots, open the fields up and chopped his low areas. He figured he covered about nine acres but all in very small areas. He made enough good silage to fill his silo. The results on his total oat yield: more value from the oats, because he destroyed the weeds and insured cleaner oats by using his chopper as a "culler". Sounds like a good idea, says the University of Minnesota's extension agronomist, Rodney A. Briggs, who brought us these facts.

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Stops Water-Erosion Damage -- Byron Wood, who farms in the South Wabasha Soil Conservation District, decided that the damage to his place from soil and water loss was going to stop. He could hardly harvest in 1954 because of the rills and little ditches that come with up-and-down-hill farming. Since becoming a district cooperator, he has set up over two miles of terraces as Step One and will add several miles a year. It surprised him just how much soil he saved this past year--and the added moisture the terraces held in the soil.

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Tree Planting Expedition -- Boy scouts and farmers work together on woodland improvement up near Bayport, in the Washington County Soil Conservation District. Begun in 1940, the Norway Pine project this year yielded \$76.50 to the Bayport Explorers Scout troupe. Twenty scouts spent six hours thinning and pruning a third of an acre and cut out a quarter of the stand--from this yield, they processed and sold 102 fenceposts. Scouts and the timber owner both profitted--the farmer had his timber thinned, the Scouts their budget fattened.

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Shelterbelt Gives Snow-free Barnyard -- Ever drive in a neighbor's place and find yourself wondering how the place is so clear of snow? Then, you looked up to see that big, friendly shelterbelt of trees off to the north and west. The farmer would tell you those are the most valuable acres on his place. County agents have full facts and free help for "installing" a farm shelterbelt.

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