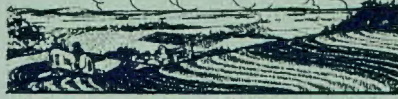


# Our LAND



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Grass Silage is One Answer -- Early-day farmers didn't worry about the nutrients in hay. But as it became more important to increase production without raising costs, it became important to improve the food value of the average hay crop. Wet weather delayed harvest many years, robbing the hay of much of its food value. That's one reason Ivan Mostoller of Deer River began making grass silage <sup>years</sup> three/ ago. He soon noticed the improvement in his cows--they had slicker coats and looked livelier. Artificial breeding success increased on the Mostoller farm. This story came to us from Rodney A. Briggs, University of Minnesota extension agronomist.

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Soil Test Helps Pinpoint Need -- Henry Krueth, who farms 320 acres near Saum in the Beltrami Soil Conservation District, put on 200 pounds of 0-20-0 a couple of years ago. No result. The SCS technician suggested he take soil samples of the field in question and send them to the University of Minnesota soil testing laboratory. The University recommended -- not 0-20-0 -- but 150 pounds per acre of 0-0-6'. Krueth reports his increased yields from the University's prescription far outweighed fertilizer cost. He thinks now that every farmer should have all his fields tested, because he has learned that fertilizer needs may vary greatly from one field to another.

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Christmas Tree Production High -- Minnesota produced about 5,000,000 Christmas trees last year, ranking first or second in the nation. This business brings in from \$3 to \$5 million a year from out-of-state sources alone. Some of these trees come from regular "tree farms" and this is a profitable way of using some types of land. But it must be cared for just as crop land if a tree farmer is to show a profit, and compete with wild trees. These facts come from a University of Minnesota extension forester, Marvin Smith.

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Use Field Cultivator for Seedbed Preparation -- In preparing a pasture seedbed for some large-scale beef pasturing tests on rolling land, University of Minnesota soils specialists learned one important lesson--if land is likely to erode, use a heavy field cultivator instead of a plow in preparing the seedbed.