

Our LAND



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Soybean Contouring Doesn't Reduce Yield -- Last year, Rudy Kehren of the SCS at Windom helped John Rempel, Dale Township, Cottonwood County, lay out 15 acres of rolling ground for contour planting of soybeans. Rempel reports that this field produced 28 bushels an acre--as good as other beans on level ground. He says this increase is due largely to the extra moisture contour ridges held during one good midsummer rain.

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Ever Hear of a "Duck Factory?" -- Farmer-sportsman Robert Goltz of Squaw Lake has started a duck factory on his farm. "There's nothing to it," says Bob, "I just took advantage of what Mother Nature provided."

The little lake was there, all right, with its shallow bays and lily pads -- but it took wild rice to make it an ideal habitat it now is for nesting mallards. The broods watched and protected from any poachers by Bob and his wife, grow to adult birds each fall and spread out into surrounding lakes.

Bob worked out a management plan for his wood area with County Extension Forestry Agent Floyd Colburn. In eight years he has filled in a denuded area, checked erosion and now has Norway pines eight feet high.

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First Soil Moisture Measure Started -- The state's first large-scale soil moisture survey was completed last month by University of Minnesota soils men, the SCS and the Weather Bureau. George R. Blake, University soil physicist, says that three or four years of such surveys will give us a valuable bank of facts on which to base soil management and cropping practices for best land use and higher yields.

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Plant Trees on Hillsides--Save Bottomland Crops -- Planting trees on hillsides makes bottomland crops a lot safer. During spring freshets and heavy rains good land is washed away or covered with silt. On steep slopes after a heavy rain, silt enough to cover 3,000 acres of good crops with at least an inch of washaway soil has been found. This startling fact comes from a University of Minnesota extension forester, Parker Anderson.