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Raises Brood of Ducks in Drainage Ditch -- For three years now, Mons Engelstad, a Pennington County farmer and soil conservation district cooperater, has raised a brood of ducks on a hole in a drainage ditch he improved several years ago. The hole is 150 feet long, 20 feet wide and two feet deep.

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How About Tractor Track Corn Planting? -- Is all this seedbed preparation necessary to raise good corn? This year the Chisago Soil Conservation District is sponsoring a project in which 24 acres of corn will be planted in tractor tracks on newly-plowed ground. Twelve district cooperators whose farms have a heavy soil type are joining in the project. After harvest, the farmers will give their opinions on the tractor track idea. R. W. Anderson, Lindstrom, chairman of the district board of supervisors, says that if it proves practical it will save money and reduce runoff by leaving 70 per cent of the field area in a rough condition ready to soak up rain as it falls.

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Woodland Pasture Doesn't Give 60 Bites -- Another proof that woodland pasture is a poor use for land comes from research that shows that on good pasture a cow takes about 60 bites a minute. She chews her cud about seven hours a day, lies down 12 hours. But on woodland pasture, she has to do a lot of searching to get those 60 bites per minute. Result: more searching than eating--and less milk produced. This story came to us from a University of Minnesota extension forester, Parker Anderson.

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4-H Club Maintains 22 Bird-Feeding Stations -- The Riverside 4-H Club of Vernon Center has a wonderful record in conservation projects. The club maintains 22 bird-feeding stations. Its members left 45 miles of fence line uncleaned and 36 acres of slough and woodlot areas protected from grazing and burning. The members built 28 bird houses and planted 10 feeding areas for song birds. This report comes from the club's leader, Ellsworth North, and Blue Earth County Agent Wayne Weiser of Mankato.

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