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Lakefield Farmer Gives Wildlife Refuge -- When dry weather threatened wildlife on his farm, Lester Larson of Lakefield dammed the Little Sioux River which runs through the corner of his permanent pasture. This protected the wildlife and provides a place for wild ducks and pheasants. Larson believes in conservation farming, too. He has about 80 acres of his land on the contour system.

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Corn Stays Green All Summer -- The corn stays green all summer on Les Hamer's farm near Pipestone since he put in his contour-strip setup. He has strips on sloping land, underlain by sands and gravel. His corn stayed green in last summer's terrible drouth. SCS man Les Swanson reports that a field adjoining Hamer's place "fired" very early in the season with a resulting loss in yield. Even though it was a more gently sloping field than Hamer's, it was planted in straight rows and, of course, didn't hold the water needed for best yields.

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Double Brome Production With Fertilizer -- Farmers producing brome grass and Kentucky blue grass seed can easily double their production by putting on from 40 to 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre this spring. Paul Burson, a University of Minnesota soils professor, says that on an ammonium nitrate basis, this would be at the rate of 125 to 200 pounds per acre. Other forms of nitrogen fertilizer may be used, too, of course. Topdressing should be done soon. Farmers have reported yields ranging from 175 pounds with no nitrogen up to over 500 pounds putting on just 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

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Bagging Silage Found Good Practice -- Bagging from up to 70 tons of grass silage in an airtight plastic bag may be the coming thing. University of Minnesota extension agronomist Rodney A. Briggs tested two such bags, filling them in the summer of 1955 and opening them just recently. Results: excellent, tasty silage with no surface spoilage and as little dry matter loss as the best airtight steel silos. The bags are not yet in commercial production, however--there are still problems to be worked out in handling them and salvaging them for a second and third year of use.