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# Our LAND



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Stripcropping Saves Fields -- "Thanks to contour farming and stripcropping, this was the first year the crop in my flat land didn't drown out," reports Paul Imes, farmer near Echo, Minnesota. Contour stripcropping established above the flat on his farm held the water on slopes where it was needed, and saved a bean crop on the low ground. Where it once washed a lot, the erosion is now under control. Imes intends to have the Soil Conservation Service at Clarkfield lay out more contour strips this fall.

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Terraces Stop Water Erosion -- Stanley Gronseth, farmer in Mower county, didn't have to wait long to find out what terraces on a farm will do. He had just completed 3,500 feet of terraces when there were two storms in two days. One storm dropped more than two inches of rain in one hour. Although the terraces were loose and unsettled, they prevented erosion. On another field--with less slope--erosion was so severe that it cut rills up to 6 inches deep. Gronseth says he's now anxious to get the rest of his cropland terraced.

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Dam Aids Wildlife Preservation -- One hundred acres of the John Morton farm near Glenwood is devoted to preservation of wildlife. Several years ago, Morton reconstructed an old mill dam on the Chippewa river. This dam now floods about 60 acres of wet land on the farm and provides a pond about 8 feet deep in the deepest area. He has planted this pond with vegetation that provides feed for wild ducks. Most of the vegetation is wild rice. It also provides a good habitat for muskrats and other fur-bearing animals.

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Sandy Area Provides Wildlife Cover -- Lawrence Balzer, a cooperator in the Steele county district, decided to turn over a 9-acre patch of soil as permanent wildlife preserve, on advice from Orville Risser, Steele county soil Conservationist. Risser helped Balzer prepare a soil conservation plan for his farm. The main feature of the wildlife preserve area is a small sand hill, called an "esker". It was left behind by the glacier. Lawrence intends to seed the hill down and establish a grove on it to provide good wildlife cover.