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Our LAND



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Conservation Farming Increases Land Efficiency -- Conservation farming has enabled Joe Buehler, Winona county farmer, to produce more feed on less land. He started farming with 20 milk cows and two horses on a 320-acre farm. The rolling fields weren't suited for corn or grain. He had 160 acres of cropland, and much of it was steep. In 1947 the Soil Conservation Service helped him lay out contour strips. Since then he has reduced his crop fields to 105 acres, but increased his dairy herd to 70 head. He feeds 60 to 80 pigs annually, and has plenty of feed for all, thanks to increased yields.

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Shelterbelts Stop Soil Loss -- William Carlin and his son Hubert are "keeping their soil at home" on their 700-acre stretch of light soil in Sherburne county. In 1942 they put in a mile of shelterbelts along the west and north sides of the farm. Most of the jack pine, cottonwood and red cedar trees are about 20 feet high now, and they protect 160 acres of soil. "We can easily tell the difference," says William Carlin. "Years ago, there used to be a heavy cloud of dust blowing across the highway on windy days. Now we seldom see any soil blowing."

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Low-Cost Bunker Silo Aids Farmer -- A forty-dollar bunker silo built out of old railroad ties feeds 50 head of cattle for Bob Simonson, a cooperator in the Redwood county Soil Conservation District. The silo measures 60' x 20', and holds about 200 tons of forage. It has feeding gates that let the cows help themselves to the silage. Simonson told Robert J. Feldt, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, that self-feeding with the bunker silo is cheap and easy.

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Waterways Save Soil -- Grass waterways are soil-savers in many ways, say soils scientists at the University of Minnesota. They prevent gullies and carry off runoff water without any damage. They produce hay and make farming easier. A good grass mixture for waterways is brome grass and Kentucky blue grass, with some alfalfa or clover in the mixture to make better hay or pasture.

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