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Contour Strips Reduce Power Costs -- On a recent tour of conservation practices and problems in Sibley county, businessmen and farmers asked Marvin Ostermann in Jesseland township how he liked farming the "contour way." Ostermann's answer: "Ten years ago I had one field in crop and lost so much soil and had such a low yield that I seeded the field down and left it. Last year I contour-stripped this field and put every other strip in soybeans. I got a good yield, had no noticeable erosion, and found it takes less power and gas to farm on the level than it did to go up and down hill."

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Farmer Helps Beavers Build Dam -- Three years ago Jack Koskela purchased 40 acres of woodland near Angora in St. Louis county. Beavers were building a dam in a small creek which flows through his forty, so Koskela decided to help them. He hired a bulldozer and built the dam about 8 feet high. It flooded about 12 acres of land that was covered with brush and grass. Koskela now has a wildlife sanctuary well populated with beavers, ducks, muskrats, and other wildlife. "He greatly enjoys watching, feeding, and providing for his wildlife," says H. Ray Cline, Soil Conservationist for the Little Fork Soil Conservation District.

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Fertilized Grass Aids Beef -- Lester Coy, Faribault county farmer, got two pounds of gain per head on 48 feeder steers last summer, reports Francis Januschka, Soil Conservation agent in Faribault county. Using an 11-acre pasture of reed canary grass fertilized with 200 pounds of 5-20-20 per acre, Coy rotationally grazed the area and still cut a 65-ton hay crop. Spending 20 minutes per day changing the fence paid off, Coy says.

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Movie Cites Conservation Work -- An outstanding conservation film titled "The Farmer and the Sportsman" has been produced and released by the Red Wing Shoe Company, Red Wing, according to Arnold Wiebusch, Goodhue county soil conservation agent. The film tells a story of how the farmer conserves the soil and maintains wildlife cover, and shows the behavior of a courteous and appreciative hunter from town. It also gives some timely pointers on gun safety.