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Tells Plant Food Loss From Cropping -- Arnold Wiebusch, Goodhue county soil conservation agent, points to an example of how plant food has been lost from cropland in the past 100 years. Carl Fedrickson, Goodhue county farmer, had a state laboratory soil test of a field that was recently cleared of a timber stand. Available phosphate was high; it tested 100. Potash was also high, more than 280, and organic content was at a medium level--5.2. On another field with a long cropping history, phosphate tested 5 (very low), potash was 100 (medium), and organic matter was 1.6 (low).

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Conservation Pays for West Concord Farmer -- Howard Sathrum, West Concord, a cooperator with the Dodge county Soil Conservation District, has been following a conservation plan on his flat farm for ten years. He says "It's hard to measure the full benefit, but I'm convinced that it pays. My farm is more productive and easier to work. Grass and legumes in our rotation made this possible."

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Increase Grass to Prevent Bloat -- Pasture mixtures with a composition of 50 per cent or less legumes are not likely to cause much trouble with bloat, says A. R. Schmid, University of Minnesota agronomist. No one recommended mixture will give the same type of composition on different soil types or under different growing conditions, though. If you have difficulty getting enough grass in a mixture, cut down on the legume seeding rate and increase the grass. You might also try plugging alternate holes in the legume seeding attachment on the drill. It may help to add meadow fescue or timothy along with southern brome grass to increase grass percentage. Don't include ladino if bloat is a problem.

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Seven Year Rotation Pays -- By using a 7-year major rotation, Clarence Meyers, Faribault county, gets higher yields on the second year following a legume than the first, reports Francis Januschka, county soil conservation agent. The rotation of oats, hay, pasture, corn, soybeans, and corn has built the fertility of Meyers' fields to where now he needs to apply only enough fertilizer to maintain that fertility.