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Records Show Value of Renovated Pasture -- Theodore Wachter, Dakota county farmer knows how well renovating pasture pays off. He kept records comparing old blue grass pasture with a fertilized, renovated area. Bluegrass, poorest pasture, yielded 727 pounds of milk per acre. Renovated, fertilized pasture yielded 2,325 pounds of milk per acre. Wachter's dairy herd got 70 per cent of the total feed from 115 days of total grazing on the renovated. A total of 7 pastures, strip grazed, averaged 1,687 pounds of milk per acre, equal to 65 bushels of corn per acre in feed value, reports George C. Whalen, county soils agent who helped Wachter set up the record system.

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Vo-Ag Teacher Practices Sound Conservation -- The old proverb of "Practice What You Preach" has been more than fulfilled by Lawrence Nelson, vocational agriculture instructor at Mora. Nelson, who owns and operates a 160-acre dairy farm, is an enthusiastic booster of soil conservation farming in his Vo-Ag and adult classes, and can point to his own farm as an example of good land use. With the assistance of SCS technicians from the Kanabec Soil Conservation District, Nelson has installed 30 acres of contour strip cropping, 15 acres of contour farming, planted a farm windbreak, developed 4 wildlife areas by planting trees and shrubs, and constructed a 1400-foot waterway. To round out his farm conservation plan, Nelson limes all cropland fields and applies commercial fertilizer as needed. This year, he got good legume seedings on fields fertilized with 40 pounds of 5-20-20 per acre, and oats yields averaged 70 bushels per acre.

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Marshall County Farmer Finds Way to Save Sandy Soil -- Selmar Anderson, Marshall county farmer, has some sandy land that blows quite easily. In recent years, he has experimented with several ways to control this soil "drifting". He figured there must be a solution, and finally found one. He tried working the fields deeper-- about 6 inches deep--and worked the field both ways. For heavy stubble, he uses a disk-plow, then follows with a heavy cultivator. This year, a field that had that treatment raised a crop of oats that looked as good as any in the area, reports Fred Heck, Marshall county soil conservation agent.