

Our LAND



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Q: Do state or federal agencies control soil conservation districts?

A: No. The local board of supervisors runs the district. They may request help from state and federal agencies to help the district solve its soil and water problems.

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Turning under all the stalks when plowing has definite advantages. For one thing, it adds more vegetable matter to the top layer of soil. That adds organic matter which decomposes to make additional nitrogen available for growing plants. Covering all stalks aids corn borer control, too, M. L. Armour, University Farm extension agronomist, reports.

If erosion is a problem, plowing deep and leaving the surface rough in the fall will help.

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CONTOURING EVEN HELPS STOP RUNAWAYS. A FARMER IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA HAD A CONTOURED CORN FIELD WITH THE CONTOURS EXTENDING AROUND A LARGE KNOLL IN A HORSESHOE SHAPE. ONE DAY THE HORSES RAN AWAY DURING HUSKING TIME. THEY FOLLOWED THE HORSESHOE ROW. THE FARMER RAN OVER THE HILL WHILE THEY WERE GOING AROUND AND CAUGHT THEM ON THE OTHER SIDE.

IN ADDITION TO KEEPING HIS TOPSOIL IN PLACE, INCREASING YIELDS AND HAVING LONGER ROWS WHICH ARE EASIER TO FARM, THIS FARMER NOW HAS A NEW ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CONTOURING.

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Lime should be applied the fall before seeding legumes next spring. First, test your soil to determine the liming needs. Then put lime on this fall on fields to be spring seeded to legumes. Apply it at the rates indicated by the soil test.

Soil samples can be tested at the University of Minnesota. Send them to the Soil Testing Lab., University Farm, St. Paul.

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