

University Farm News
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Our LAND



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J. R. Douglass, Kasson, strip crops 47 acres with a 4-year rotation of row crops, grain seedings, and two years of alfalfa-brome grass. He couples this with a lime, phosphate and potash fertilizing program. It's paying off. He reports the alfalfa-brome acres are the most profitable because of the low cost and high feed production. They conserve soil, too.

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LOWERED CROP YIELDS, POOR PASTURES, GULLIES, DRIFTING SOIL AND SAND, SILT WASHING INTO ROADSIDE DITCHES AND LAKES, PARTIALLY PLUGGED DRAINAGE DITCHES, MUDDY STREAMS--THESE ARE SOME OF THE DANGER SIGNS THAT WIND AND WATER EROSION IS TAKING PLACE.

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There are hundreds of farms along the Mississippi with a few inches of Minnesota soil on them.

Take John Masses, Corning, Mo., for example. He has a river bottom farm south of Hamburg, Iowa. Parts of his farm have been covered with as much as 17 feet of silt in the last 10 to 15 years. Floods two years ago dropped a foot of silt on part of his farm. He sends "thanks" to farmers up the river for their rich topsoil!

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Q. How many I obtain help from my soil conservation district?

A. If you are in a district, you apply to the board of supervisors. The district gives you the help of a trained U. S. Soil Conservation Service technician to develop and apply a complete farm conservation plan covering every acre of your farm.

If you're not in a district, get together with your neighbors and organize one. Your county agent will help.

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