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Our LAND



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To prevent erosion in a pasture lane which of necessity must run down hill, Art Anderson, cooperator with Rock Soil Conservation District, first widened his lane to five rods. Then when cattle started to wear a path in sod, he set a steel fence post every three or four rods, forcing cattle to find new place to walk.

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The best use for acres taken out of soil-depleting crops is to seed more grass and legumes. Make present limited seed supplies cover more acres by careful seedbed preparation and proper fertilization. Reduce seeding rates, firm the soil after seeding, sow seed shallow and at a uniform depth. If a nurse crop is used, reduce the standard small grain seeding rate to help insure a good stand of the grass and legume seedlings.

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Winterkilling often gets blamed when other things are responsible for poor stands of legumes. Most of the time a nutrient deficiency in the soil causes the poor stand. In eastern Minnesota, test your soil before seeding. If lime is needed, apply it the year before. Also be sure to inoculate seed when planting, says Paul Burson, professor of soils. Then apply phosphate or phosphate-potash at seeding time. Put on enough--not less than 300 pounds of 0-20-0, 0-20-20, or the equivalent.

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Beware of the sudden urge to plant trees this spring. Planting is a good idea, but a hurried order and a frantic job invariably combine to spell disappointment, says Marvin Smith, extension forester at University Farm. Plan your tree planting as a long-time project. Trees live a long time so plan and plant them not for a few years but as a permanent addition to your farm.

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