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Our LAND



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"Don't overlook the importance of fertilizer in connection with root weight of green manure crops," says S. B. Cleland, extension farm management specialist. When you fertilize sweet clover, alfalfa, brome or other soil-building crops, you can see the increased volume of tops. You may not notice it, but approximately the same increase in volume of roots is taking place. This means more organic matter and better conditions for the soil.

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Howard Zarling, new cooperator of the South Wabasha County Soil Conservation District, told SCS technicians he had applied for a complete farm conservation plan because a neighbor had assured him he couldn't lose. The neighbor, Matt Taubel, who is one of the earliest cooperators, told Zarling that even without erosion control and increased yields, he would still want to continue his plan. The reason? Because working the land on the contour with a strip cropping program is actually easier.

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Soil conservation-minded farmers will be interested in Extension Folder 152, "Good Rotations Are Like More Land," by S. A. Engene and A. Vanvig. It is available from county agents or the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul. Alfalfa is usually thought of first as a feed crop and second for soil improvement. But experiences of farmers cited in the folder suggest that its fertility value may be more important than its feed value.

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Imagine the great loneliness which crept over Harold Gifford, farm planner for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Caledonia, Minnesota, recently, when he escorted Mrs. Paulus, teacher from Hanover, Germany, on a recent field trip. Gifford took her to the home of August Banse, a district cooperator in Houston county. He soon discovered that Mr. Banse was born in Hanover and that both he and Mrs. Paulus preferred to discuss his soil conservation plan in their native tongue. Gifford, who understands not a word of German, tried to appear interested at the right moments while his companions were "Deutsche sprechen."