

# Our LAND



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Edgar Opheven, farmer near Watkins, appreciates the value of good pasture.

Three hundred people attending the Central Minnesota Grassland Tour in June saw his pasture. He has a three-field arrangement of about five acres each. It's seeded to alfalfa, red clover and timothy and fertilized with 300 pounds of 0-20-10 fertilizer, reports E. R. Duncan, U. of M. Extension Soils Specialist. It carries 2 head per acre, and Opheven has never lost a cow from bloat.

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Start pasture renovation this August, urges Paul Burson, professor of soils at the University of Minnesota. If you want to change from bluegrass to brome start the renovation early this fall. Use a field cultivator or plow shallow to prepare the sod. Work the sod at different times during the fall to kill the bluegrass. If the land is rolling and subject to erosion, do not plow. Experiments have shown that old pastures on rolling land will erode more severely when plowed than those prepared with a field cultivator. Fertilize and seed early next spring.

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Feeding hay or silage to cows which cannot gather enough feed as the result of short pastures during hot dry weather is recommended by Ralph Wayne, Extension Dairy Specialist at the University of Minnesota. Alfalfa or clover hay or hay crop silage are excellent feeds for this purpose. Feed them liberally. Dairywomen who filled their silos with first crop of hay are finding this silage to be excellent for summer feeding. They also got away from a lot of hay being spoiled by rain. Don't let your cows run down now, urges Wayne. It means lower production now and a lot more feed later in the year to bring them back.

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In past years Harold Loken, cooperator in the South Goodhue SCL, has been forced to rent additional pasture for his young livestock even though he had 37 acres of permanent pasture. Then came a renovation program. Today, Loken's livestock graze fully-deep in birdsfoot trefoil-brome grass and no pasture rent to pay.

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