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Greener Grasslands Needed ... W. M. Myers, former director of U. S. Department of Agriculture field crops research, now chief of the agronomy division at the University of Minnesota, points out that "Grassland improvement throughout the world offers an opportunity that must not be neglected if dietary levels are to be ... maintained in the face of an ever-increasing population pressure." He cites proof that good dairy and beef production can be obtained by feeding high-quality pasture, hay and grass silage without the use of concentrates. In New Jersey, dairy cows so fed over a five-year period produced an average of 8,400 pounds of milk per year. Similarly, beef cattle are being finished to good and choice grades in some areas of the U. S. without concentrates.

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Trees on Contour ... Harvey Ligneel, Minnesota cooperater in the Lyon SCD, used both terraces and contour planting to prevent soil washing when he laid out a new farmstead shelterbelt. The trees had to go on a steep slope. In addition to preventing erosion, the contouring and terraces will save moisture for faster tree growth.

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Too Much Sod?...If they grow sufficient sod to give adequate erosion control, Minnesota farmers with much steep land may find they do not have enough livestock to utilize the amount of forage produced on their farms. As a solution to this problem, Harold Jones, extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota, suggests that the amount of sod grown may be reduced to one-third instead of one-half the acreage by terracing suitable land. Long, uniform slopes up to 12 per cent lend themselves well to terracing. Short, steep or irregular slopes do not terrace well.

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Cover Crops ... Cover crops are thick-growing crops usually planted as a part of a rotation for soil improvement and erosion control. They are used at a time when there are few or no other plants to protect the land from wind or water erosion. Both legumes and grasses make good cover crops. Farmers in more than 2,300 soil conservation districts have planted cover crops on more than 15 million acres during the past few years, reports the Soil Conservation Service.

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