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SCS Chief at Albert Lea ... Dr. Robert Salter, new chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, will make his first public appearance in this area when he speaks at the 3rd annual Livestock and the Land Institute at Albert Lea September 25. Another highlight will be the appearance of two farmers -- Logan Thompson, Plainview, Minnesota, and Gale Davis, Nemaha, Iowa. They will explain their farming operations, which emphasize soil conservation and livestock.

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Unlike Lightning ... Heavy rains in Lincoln County this summer pointed up the sharp contrast in soil losses on fields farmed "up and down" as compared with fields farmed on the contour with good rotations and other practices. Corn fields farmed up and down hill lost as much as six inches of soil in places.

Unlike lightning, soil erosion strikes in the same place again and again. So it's a good bet that farmers will be working in the subsoil when those places are plowed again. On many rotated fields in grasses with legumes, soil losses were cut almost to zero. The water stayed where it fell and soaked in or ran along terraces to a grassed waterway.

William Oemichen of the Soil Conservation Service reported that even the hills in one neighborhood looked like lakes where water was being held in contour rows until it soaked in.

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Test, Don't Guess ... Why guess at the proper fertilizer for your crop, or, worse, why be satisfied with less than top yield without fertilizers when you can find out the proper need with a soil test? Your county agent has information and instruction blanks on how to sample soils properly for testing. The Soil Testing laboratory at University Farm, St. Paul, has adequate facilities to run these tests.

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