

# Our LAND



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Values Drainage System Highly -- When Nels Faugstad of Freeborn County got a chance to go ahead with his tile drain system last spring, he valued the work so highly that he had the contractor work right through his new corn as well as meadow land. His belief that drained land would produce enough corn to more than compensate for the lost strips has now proved to be correct. "Besides", he said, "this drainage system is going to benefit the whole farm. We can quit pushing the present cropland so hard and use more grass to build it up".

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Nix on Fence Row Fires -- Fence row fires cost money by damaging steel posts and wire and reducing the life of untreated wood posts. These fires consume some dead vegetation, damage wildlife cover and have little if any good effect on next year's crop of fence-row weeds, according to J. R. Neetzel, research associate in the U. of M. School of Forestry. Fences should be kept free from vines, brush and tree limbs, since they weigh down the wire, cause unnatural stretching. Brush and vines are especially harmful in years of heavy snow, because they catch the snow, and the combined weight often pulls fences to the ground. Clean fence rows of brush, yes, NOT by burning, urges Neetzel.

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Build or Buy? -- With farm land prices at a high level, it may be cheaper to build soil fertility on existing acres than to buy it in the form of additional land, declared the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee recently. "Doubling the yield instead of doubling the acres is the answer to this problem of zooming land prices", says the Committee. "Soil building measures involving an investment of \$50 to \$75 per acre can make low-producing 'middle class' land the equal of top-yielding soil within a year or two under favorable moisture conditions. Thus you may save yourself the expense of buying high priced land, and you double or triple the return per acre".

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