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# Our LAND



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Poor Land Use Sinful -- "Worn out soil won't support a strong agriculture that gives bountiful crops and helps us build a church and keep it strong as a place of worship". This unusual statement came recently from a southeastern Minnesota Lutheran pastor, Oscar E. Engerbretson, minister of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spring Grove. Rev. Engerbretson said it's a clergyman's duty to call attention to the sin of inefficient and unwise land use.

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Trees Make Wind Walk -- It's an all too frequent thing to see in winter--those dense black clouds of dust rolling across the landscape. Says Marvin Smith, extension forester at the U. of M. "Unless snowfall is above average, bare-plowed fields are soon blown clear of snow and winter winds begin to steal your best soil--the topsoil." Although we can't stop wind from blowing, Smith says, we can tame it, so it won't do nearly as much harm. Down in the Great Plains, a tree-checked countryside makes the wind "walk" instead of run. And if wind walks, it cannot get up enough force to tear away precious topsoil. Ask your county agent about shelter-belts. He can help you find ways to make wind "walk".

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Save Soil For Future -- Saving the soil for our great-great-grandchildren is our duty as patriotic American citizens, says E. F. Ferrin, head of the University's animal husbandry department. Highly productive land that gives us good food and shelter is one of the greatest defenses against Communism. A good way to avoid bankrupting your soil is livestock farming, Ferrin says. Progressive farmers know that management programs that incorporate livestock are a big step along the road to preserving soil fertility.

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