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Our LAND



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Minnesota Farmers Increase Conservation Programs -- More farmers took on soil conservation in 1953 than in the year before, according to Herbert A. Flueck, state conservationist with the SCS. Reports show an increase of 3,000 acres in strip cropping, 1000 acres of pasture seeding, 400 acres of tree planting, 60 miles of windbreak plantings, 2,500 acres cover cropping and 7,000 acres in drainage.

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Grass-Legumes Better Than Grasses Alone -- Recent Department of Agriculture studies at Mandan, N. D., suggest that grass-legume mixtures provide more dependable pasture production than grass alone. The experiment shows mixed grass and alfalfa--consisting mostly of crested wheatgrass, bromegrass and Ladak alfalfa--produced 1,006 pounds of digestible nutrients per acre, compared with 460 pounds from crested wheatgrass alone, 496 pounds from sudan grass alone and 271 pounds from native grass. Milk production in pounds per acre was 2,041 for the mixed grass and alfalfa, 1,475 for the crested wheatgrass, 1,098 for the sudan grass, and 685 pounds for the native grass pasture.

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Here's a Sharp One -- Every once in awhile you hear of an improvement on some common phrase. Here's a new one we thought worth passing on: "Renovate your pastures and the grass will be greener on your side of the fence."

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Farm Families Talk It Over -- Perhaps it's already been demonstrated in your home, but we thought you'd like to know what a University of Wisconsin rural sociologist, E. A. Wilkening, found--that a farmer's wife and older children greatly influence the farm operation. For example, many farm women judge correctly that land and farm improvements can mean a better-equipped home. Thus, many wives surveyed said they would urge their husbands to get new farm equipment or make land improvements before buying furniture or home appliances.

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