

Our LAND



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"Soil Erosion Protection Policy" Pays Dividend -- "My soil erosion protection policy more than paid for itself after the last heavy rain," Marvin Prink told Willis E. De Valois, Dakhue Soil Conservation District farm planner at Cannon Falls.

Prink's area had five heavy rains this spring and summer and after each, he checked his terraces and contour strips to see how they were performing. He noted that from the terraced field water was leaving "clear" with no sign of silt. On the strips, there was some washing in the lower edge, but the soil was lodged in the hay strips just below and these hay strips filtered out the silt and slowed up the water. Prink says now he wouldn't give up his "Erosion Control Policy" for anything.

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Plowville '53 Site Much Different Than Year Ago -- Plowville '53 near Buffalo is over a year old and the best is yet to come. Red Sather, SCS farm planner at Buffalo remembers the beginning of the project. Then, he recalls, the furrows ran up and down hill intermingled with gullies and washouts. Now neat, green sod waterways and contour strips and terraces. Badly eroded areas, where only a weak covering of weeds and grass grew, now have neat plantings of soil-holding trees. And from soggy land that occasionally made Grade C pasture, a good crop of corn is being harvested. The "new look" will grow more beautiful each year -- that's the best part, Red says.

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Merchants Get Conservation View -- Planners of a mid-summer tour of cooperators' farms in the Kanabec Soil Conservation District invited area merchants to come along. On several of the farms visited, the farmer described his soil conservation plan to the group.

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Plowing Contestants Get Early Start -- Plowing contests are serious business, as any contestant knows. As soon as the skies began to clear Thursday, the day before Plowville '54, contestants were scouting the area for a practice plowing field.