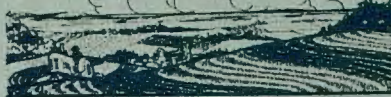


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Our LAND



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Eloquent Proof Pasture Improvement Pays -- Imagine pasturing 35 cows and 60 sheep on 29 acres of pasture and still having more than enough pasture forage for them. It happens on the Edwin W. Goplen farm in Goodhue County. Goplen has 35 acres of renovated pasture divided into six plots. Three contain birdsfoot trefoil and Lincoln brome. His pastures were so good this year that, in spite of pasturing 35 Holsteins and 60 sheep, he left stock out of one of the three birdsfoot trefoil pastures. Last month, he cut the trefoil and is harvesting seed from this plot-- pretty good proof pasture improvement pays. This story comes from W. Marion Roberts, SCS area conservationist at Rochester.

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Land-Building Pays Off in Dry Weather -- Last year was a dry one for many Minnesota farms. Take the Joe Strohl farm near Janesville, for example. It had no rain all through July. Yet, Joe's corn yielded over 50 bushels per acre even without fertilizer. Of course, fertilized fields did even better. The reason for the overall good performance? Joe had built up his land over the years. He had rotated his crops, sowed legumes and fertilizer carefully. And it paid off even in a dry summer.

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Two Million Baby Trees Planted -- Planting over two million baby trees in Sherburne county since 1944 is one striking accomplishment in the report of the Sherburne County Soil Conservation District. J. H. Weis, St. Cloud, an original member and now chairman of the board of district supervisors, says tree planting is a principal soil conservation practice in that sandy-soil county. Trees work as field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, improvement of woodland, reforestation of land too sandy to grow profitable crops, and improving wildlife areas. By July 1, 1954, 593 of Sherburne county's 1,000 farmers were in the district's program. Windbreak plantings total 355 miles and woodland plantings 142 acres. And there is a new crop -- Christmas trees. They grow well on sandy soil and the trees protect the soil and make a good profit to the grower.

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Happy New Year From Our Land -- This is our last column for the year. Watch for us next week, first of the new year.