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Beef Cows are Processing Units -- We take a lot of pride in our modern food-processing plants. But some food processors originated thousands of years ago. They are the ruminant animals--cows and sheep--which have billions of microscopic bacteria in their digestive system. Says E. F. Ferrin, head of the University of Minnesota's animal husbandry department: "Cashing in on the rich nutrients of pastures and coarse roughages is the special skill of the beef cow. Nearly all her food is such material. She has greater ability to use low-grade roughage than a good dairy cow because she gets little other feed. Feed nutrients in pastures and roughages cost less than those in grains and make up the biggest share of all feed. As soil conservation grows, the amounts of these bulky feeds grow, too. Beef cattle are the logical processors to turn them into cash."

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4-H'er Hatches Orphan Pheasants -- Once in awhile, a pheasant is killed by mowers harvesting an alfalfa crop. A Redwood County 4-H club member, Cappy Green of the Golden Gophers, has an answer to this tragedy. He finds the eggs, if any, and sets them under a cluck. Last spring, the conservation-minded and thoughtful young fellow hatched out a dozen baby pheasants that way. This story came to us from J. I. "Jap" Swedberg, Redwood County Agent at Redwood Falls.

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Manure Promotes Pastures -- Maynard Mehrkens and John Burtness, cooperators with the Pennington County Soil Conservation District, find that liberally adding manure to pastures brings them more grass during grazing season. Applying 10 to 12 loads of fresh manure per acre during the winter and early spring of 1953 boosted their pasture production tremendously. Burtness kept 19 producing cows and six yearling heifers on 14 acres from early spring until late August. Mehrkens kept 20 cows and six yearling heifers on 16 acres all spring and summer. They fed only enough grain to coax the cows into the barn at milking time. Even though the summer was dry, the manured pastures produced all the grass cows would eat and more.

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