

Our LAND



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New Way of Harvesting First-Cutting Hay -- The Rollag Brothers, out in the Rock County Soil Conservation District, have a unique way of harvesting their first hay-cutting. They windrow it with a grain windrower which cuts it about two inches above the ground. The hay bales very nicely and in wet weather the stubble that's left holds the hay off the ground, enabling it to dry twice as fast. Also, corn stalks and stubble don't get into the hay. The Rollags often plow down much of their second crop of hay.

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Conservation Practices Reduce Corn Moisture -- A Waverly, Minnesota farmer, in the Wright County Soil Conservation District, chalked up some unexpected benefits by contour strip cropping his corn last year. In addition to a big reduction in soil losses, his contour strips reduced the amount of moisture in the corn. At harvest, a soil moisture test showed the contoured corn had 17 per cent moisture. In the larger, usual-shaped fields on similar soil corn moisture percentage was 26. Planting dates and fertilizing were the same on both the contoured corn land and the regular.

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Planting Tip -- If your plowing was delayed until spring, be certain the seedbed is well firmed. That's the suggestion of a University of Minnesota Extension Soils Specialist, Harold E. Jones. He explains that good seedbed firming will prevent land drying out from late summer winds. He says the best way is to shallow-plow heavy soils in the spring, then disk with the disk set straight cut down and pack as deep as you plow. This is one way to set the stage for good germination and healthy crop growth, says Jones.

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How To Use Diverted Acres Best -- Still uncertain about how to make best use of land you've diverted from acreage allotment crops? This land offers a chance to put on some badly-needed conservation measures and develop high quality pasture. The 1955 ACP program was set up to give strong help in improving conservation problems on land taken out of crop production. ACP cost-sharing help is offered for many things -- filling gullies, buying high quality grass and legume seeds, preparing seedbeds, liming and fertilizing. ACP will provide about half their cost. County agents and ASC offices have complete information on these benefits.

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