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Our LAND



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Alfalfa-Brome Rotation Pays -- "My corn is all on alfalfa-brome sod and most of the fields have been manured during the past two years. It yielded over 100 bushels an acre last fall." That's a Steele County farmer telling how soil-structure improving practices also upped his corn yields. This man has 40 per cent of his land in sod, but grows less acres of corn--but not less corn--than the average county farmer. In fact, he grows much more corn per acre than the average county farmer. His pay-off comes in the greater number of bushels he harvests in the fall and not the number of acres he plants.

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Conservation Job Helped Young Farmer -- Dean Poe, Cannon Falls, found SCS work as a conservation aid very valuable in getting an overall picture of what a young farmer could do in using land better. His studies showed that farm woodlots were some of the most neglected acres on the farm. He is now in commercial work in this field and is a source of some of the best information and enthusiasm on how to use woodlot acres most efficiently.

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Terracing and Contouring Check Erosion -- "Stalks in the area of the corn field that got enough water because of good contouring and terracing are much larger and healthier-looking. The ears also were higher quality than those grown on uncountoured areas." Viggo Anderson of Lake Benton, near the site of Plowville '54, found these good facts on his contoured land. He was astounded by how terracing holds water on the land where crops can use it. Last year was dry out in his part of the country and terracing really helped.

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Kansans See Benefits of Tree Shelterbelts -- Research by USDA men and Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station is giving us valuable facts on use of shelterbelts and other types of wind barriers. In this "war with winds," four snow fences spaced at distances 12 times fence height catch about 2.5 times as much snow as one fence and four times as much as one solid wall. And, a well-designed shelterbelt of trees and shrubs is likely to catch nearly four times as much snow as the best arrangement of snow fences.

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