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Our LAND



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Finds Farm Ponds Beneficial -- Louis Hisey, Chatfield, finds his two farm ponds very effectively control surface runoff and prevent down-stream erosion and stream pollution. His ponds are at the base of two watersheds, one a 30-acre shed, the other of 50 acres. During spring thaw, all the surface runoff from the smaller one stayed in the pond, which is a little over an acre in size and about 12 feet deep with a vegetated spillway. It is stocked with bass and bluegills. Pond Two is in the 50-acre watershed, which is mostly pasture land, and is more of a detention pond, built to stop a large gully that was eating its way into the pasture. Both ponds have created a lot of interest in the Chatfield area.

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Companion Crops Didn't Pay in Corn -- Companion crops broadcast in corn just before the last cultivation did not grow enough or give enough weed control to pay for seed and labor. That's the report of R. G. Robinson, a University of Minnesota agronomist who supervised the project at the Rosemount Agricultural Experiment Station. He says they have used winter rye, winter wheat, winter vetch, field peas, Sudan grass, buckwheat, millet and rape. Winter vetch gave the best establishment and ground cover, but by October its stems and leaves added up to only one ton green weight per acre. The vetch was broadcast at 40 pounds per acre. Seed cost \$8 an acre. Winter rye and winter wheat did not develop a good stand when sown in corn at lay-by.

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Contours Stop Duster From Dusting -- The Nelson Brothers' Farm at Ihlen, near Pipestone, had 50 acres of contour strips laid out on a field its owners considered a "duster." That was in spring, 1954. The Nelsons report no blowing since--in 1954 or in 1955. This story came to us from Lester Swanson, Pipestone, District Soil Conservationist.

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Plowville '55 -- It won't be long now -- Plowville '55, near Rothsay, in the Red River Valley, Friday and Saturday, September 16-17.