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Our LAND



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Good Home-Grown Feeds Help Cattle Gain -- Good quality farm-grown crops make a big difference in feedlot results on the Roy Ryan farm in Goodhue county. According to extension soil conservation agent Arnold Wiebusch of Red Wing, the Ryans kept a careful watch over feed costs but still had to buy protein to fill in what their farm crops lacked. Last winter, their steers were struck by scours. The veterinarian said, "overfeeding protein." The ration had worked well in earlier years but tests on the alfalfa-brome hay and corn showed them very different now--much higher in protein because of a fertilizer and crop rotation program. So the Ryans could cut down on the "boughten" protein supplement.

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Bumpy, Pothole Land Being Strip-Cropped -- Members of the Hennepin County Soil Conservation District, who farm in a bumpy, pot-hole type of land, are having great success in strip-farming around these spots to reduce soil erosion. Lloyd Larsen of the SCS at Golden Valley says that in laying out strips, they use the edge of the wet area as a guide line for strip boundaries. It doesn't always keep the strips on a true contour but helps in laying out this type of land for best erosion control. Laying out fields this way has an all-season value--the soil moisture is similar throughout all parts of each row or round. Thus, when one part of any row is dry enough to cultivate or work, so is the entire row.

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Another Success Story -- Layton Brueske, Elgin farmer, knows what it means profit-wise to farm the conservation way. In 1951, he bought 120 acres of Class 2 and 3 land. First year, he produced 12 bushels of corn per acre, 20 bushels of oats and bought most of the feed for 16 beef cattle. That winter, he asked the district for help and an SCS technician set up a conservation program for him. Fields were strip-cropped and a corn, grain, two-years-of-alfalfa-brome-rotation is operating plus liming and fertilizing programs. In 1954, Brueske produced 50 bushels of grain and 60 bushels of corn per acre and fed 46 cattle. And he doesn't buy any feed.

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Longest Contour Line in Northern Minnesota -- The longest contour line in northern Minnesota--that's the nearly two-mile long contour line set up recently on the Trosvik Brothers' Farm near Rothsay. The five Trosvik brothers and their parents will be hosts this September of Plowville '55, the state's big two-day plowing matches and soil conservation field days. The dates: Friday and Saturday, September 16-17.