

Our LAND



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Contour Strips Come Through Again -- After a heavy rain around Red Wing the first week of July, Donald Burfeind, a farmer in Belvidere Township, reports that on his contour strips--which have a rotation with half hay--he found no erosion from the heavy rains. Old timers say they believe that July 7 rain was the most intense in 34 years. Wells Creek farmers said that the creek was the highest above its bank they'd ever seen it.

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Woodlot Really Pays Off -- Walter Rice's experience in Beltrami county with a farm woodlot is something to talk about. Stanton Anderson, University extension forestry agent at Bemidji, reports that about 30 years ago a logging company offered Rice \$400 for all the standing timber on his tract. He said no. He knew what he was about. And in later years, he has frequently cut and sold timber from that tract--harvesting it as a crop, replanting regularly--that brought him several times as much as that \$400 offered him. And, best of all, the woodlot is still his and going. The growing stock--or principal, you might call it--is growing more marketable wood each year.

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Fertilizing Alfalfa Before Catch is Best -- Some folks do not fertilize their alfalfa until they see what kind of a catch they get. John Mulvehill, extension soil conservation agent at Fergus Falls, points out that this isn't such a good idea. Why? Because fertilizer actually helps in getting a better stand or catch--phosphate, especially, helps in this regard. Mulvehill says that on a planned rotation it is important that the hay crops come through well during their turn. He says that many uses of fertilizer in a conservation farm plan will be shown at the big Plowville '55 demonstration on the Trosvik Brothers' Farm near Rothsay, Sept. 16-17.

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Area Offices Friendly, Eager to Help -- A friendly welcome and lots of fine ideas--if you want them--await you at soil conservation district headquarters and county agents' offices. Thousands of farmers have called on both and now enjoy a lot better living from the ideas they carried away. These fellows in conservation work will put in some good long days helping you make a better farm out of your present place.

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