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Do Farmers Work Their Soil Too Much? -- Wilbert Hauser, a conservation farmer in Afton township, Washington county, believes farmers work soil too much. In the spring of '54, he plowed a field in Sudan grass in 1953 and planted it to corn with no disking or harrowing. He planted both field and sweet corn in the tractor wheel tracks. The field was cultivated twice and yielded 84 bushels per acre. The sweet corn was planted later and cultivated only once. It yielded six tons per acre. Last spring, he plowed a field in alfalfa and brome for four years. Then, he worked it twice with a field cultivator, harrowed and planted corn in the tractor tracks. The corn was cultivated only twice--yet it gave 90 bushels per acre. Hauser does not plow fields in the fall because of the erosion hazard and he cultivates sweet corn once, field corn only twice.

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Sudan is Fine for Summer Pasture, Silage -- One of the best ways to insure good summer pasture is to plant Sudan grass -- and you can do it as late as June. Sudan is a fast-grower that does best in hot weather. It yields high, gives plenty of pasture, is drought-resistant and very palatable. But it must have fertile soil to grow in. The University of Minnesota recommends only "Piper" Sudan. Growing it with soybeans at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds of Sudan and one bushel of soybeans makes very valuable silage.

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Good Time to Check Erosion Loss -- Muddy waters in streams or lakes means a lowering soil inventory. This is the time of year to talk over a good soil and water management program with your county agent and SCS man.