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Soil Conservation Builds Farm -- Delbert Mandelko, farmer near Preston, lists many reasons why contouring his 160-acre farm paid off, reports Oliver Strand, Fillmore county soils agent. When Mandelko bought his farm in 1950, he got about 25 bushels of corn per acre, and there isn't a ditch on the place. The land had been rented before. When Mandelko came on the farm, he had the SCS help lay out contour strips, then he spread lime and fertilizer and seeded the strips to alfalfa and clover. The second year he plowed down the hay crop and that built the soil up fast, he says. He keeps about 50 milk cows and some hogs. Since 1950, aided by his father, Delbert Mandelko has made many improvements on the farm. He has remodeled the house, landscaped the yard, built a new machine shed and built a new loafing barn for his dairy cows. The loafing barn was constructed from homesawed lumber from his own farm woodlot.

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Crop Rotation Produces Abundant Hay -- Immanuel Swenson, New Richland, a Waseca Soil Conservation District cooperater, says he can grow hay in rotation and make it pay even though he doesn't have cattle to eat the hay. A farm plan calling for one-third hay was developed in 1950 and has been followed by Swenson. He says that within the past few years his total grain output has been greatly increased and he still has hay to sell.

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Four-H Worker Aids Wildlife -- Loren Schroeder, Eagle Bend, has given his elders and fellow 4-H club workers some conservation goals that are hard to meet. He dammed up a small creek in a pasture on his home farm, and created a pond where waterfowl can nest and raise their young. He asked and then got permission from neighboring land owners to post "no hunting" signs on all the adjoining land--some one and one-half sections, so that the sanctuary will remain safe.