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Livestock Economies Important -- Saving money in livestock-raising is even more important nowadays--especially in feeding, because feed costs are 70 to 80 per cent of the cost, E. F. Ferrin, head of the University of Minnesota's animal husbandry department, reports a limited feeding plan which shows promise in cutting feeding costs. Gilts have been kept on a limited ration designed to result in their weighing about a 100 pounds less than liberally-fed hogs at 12 months of age. The limited ration was not short on quality--this would be very unwise, Ferrin said--but short only on quantity. They have found that a worth-while saving in feed costs is possible under limited feeding with no harm to the gilts or their piglets. The limited feeding idea is being studied further to get more facts on its benefits.

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Unusual Tile Drainage Plan -- Up in Lake of the Woods County, on the Russel Peters farm west of Baudette, some troublesome wet spots in an 80-acre field were drained in the spring of 1954 and a "random" tile system was planned and installed with help of the SCS and the Lake of the Woods Soil Conservation District. The results have been striking. These "problem areas" were fit to work several days earlier than nearby fields. In the wet spring of 1955, crop stands were good and uniform and grew more rapidly on that field because of the better drainage. The idea was so successful that Peters is expanding it to several other fields.

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Just His Imagination -- Grant Fredrickson of Goodhue County, found that 99 per cent of the objections to contour strip-cropping were "in his head". For several years he saw only the drawbacks of odd corners, odd strips, extra operating time and neighbors' criticisms. Last spring, one of his 65-acre fields was laid out in five hours. The top strip was odd but left large enough so that the short rows will be no objection. The rotation will take care of that. The one odd corner was seeded down and will be added to the permanent pasture below. Mrs. Fredrickson thinks the view from the house--over that field--is much prettier. Grant is convinced now he will complete a contour layout for the whole farm.

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District Supervisors Meet in January -- The state meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors will be January 11 and 12 at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis. -hrj-