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Our LAND



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Here's How Terraces Help -- Walter Cyriacks of Lake Benton, on whose farm Plowville '54 will be staged next September 17-18, reports a striking example of how terraces work. After a recent heavy rain, he says, his terraces were completely full of water. Without them, much soil and water would have gone to waste. Nearby corn fields without terraces showed dramatic evidence of the damaging power of unharnessed water. At Plowville '54 more terraces will be built on the Cyriacks farm so that farmers can see how to do it efficiently. Several of Cyriacks' neighbors have also become "terrace-conscious". Among them are Gunnar Johansen, on whose farm terraced field plowing will be demonstrated, and Floyd and Norman Berger.

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SCS Soil Surveys Making Progress -- Much soil survey work was accomplished by the SCS this year despite a late spring. According to Alex Robertson, state soil scientist, 122,950 acres were surveyed in the first two months of the mapping season. The surveys help soil conservation districts establish the land's strong and weak points. This, in turn, helps specialists answer farmers' questions on how they can use their land most efficiently and save it for the future.

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Put on Fertilizer in Late July -- Late July is a good time to fertilize your lawn, says Harold E. Jones, University soils specialist. Any fertilizer fairly high in nitrogen is good. Jones recommends from a third to a half pound of ammonium nitrate or a half to three-fourths pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of lawn. Soybean meal or a 6-2-0 fertilizer at about four pounds per 100 square feet also is good. Other nitrogen materials on the market will do just as well, Jones adds. Follow instructions on the label.

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Tile Quality Must Be High for ACP Payments -- A program to improve quality of tile is being launched. It will involve frequent inspections of each manufacturer's product to insure their coming up to high standards. Also, ACP payments for drainage will not be made to farmers for tile below those standards. But it won't be hard to get good quality tile, with the inspection program to check on quality. Further information is available from your ASC committeeman and county agent.

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