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Red Wing farmers and townspeople are in the third year of a program to halt the terrific erosion and flood tolls in the Hay Creek watershed. Last month 11,000 trees were planted on eight farms by high school and agricultural students from the state training school. Businessmen served as crew foremen.

The Hay Creek Valley program includes conservation plans for 150 farms, tree planting in farm woodlots and community forests, and stream bank and grade stabilization.

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Close pasturing reduces grass growth. Forages grow best when the temperature is not high, when there is a good supply of nitrogen and moisture, and when there is good leaf surface. Close grazing, points out M. L. Armour, U Farm Extension Agronomist, exposes the ground to the hot sun. And the less surface growth, the more rain runoff.

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Howard Knutsen, Red Wing custom corn picker, is a good salesman for contour strip cropping. Knutsen likes to pick corn where the soil is not eroded, where the topsoil is deep and productive, and where the corn yields are higher than average. Driving around the hill saves gas, too.

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For more milk to the acre, grass silage beats hay. USDA studies show an acre of alfalfa, wilted in the field to 62 per cent moisture, then chopped into quarter-inch lengths and put in the silo, helped produce nearly 12 per cent more milk per cow than field-cured, barn-stored hay. Milk from cows fed grass silage contained more health giving vitamins than either field or barn cured hay, too.