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Birdsfoot Trefoil Pays in Northern Minnesota -- "I wish I had every crop acre planted to birdsfoot trefoil." That's what Elmer Allen, farmer near Blackduck, Minnesota told technicians of the Soil Conservation Service recently. As a cooperator with the Beltrami Soil Conservation District, Allen recently put up 11 acres of trefoil for hay. Last year's trefoil was the best his sheep had ever eaten, he said. The sheep prefer trefoil to other hay and even eat the stems. Allen grows Empire and Italian trefoil varieties, but says Empire is more winter-hardy. He lists two main requirements for seeding trefoil: Prepare a good seedbed and pack the seedbed to make it firm and smooth.

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Contouring Aids Corn Crop -- Paul Adams, farmer who cooperates with the Chippewa Soil Conservation District at Montevideo, planted his corn on contour strips for the first time this year. His remarks: "We had more rain in our neighborhood than anywhere in the surrounding area. Yet, the soil on my contour strips hasn't washed a bit. The water soaked into the soil instead of running off into the river. The corn is the best I have ever raised. And by getting rid of the weeds before planting time, I only had to cultivate the corn once this year."

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Ration-A-Day Stretches Pasture -- A small pasture acreage can go a long way if you manage it right. Take the experience of Ray Speltz and sons in Winona county, for example. By using a ration-a-day pasturing system, they feed 30 head of Holsteins on 13 acres of legume pasture, plus feeding a little hay and grain in the barn. And that's on old pasture land. Last year they pastured the same acreage with almost no extra hay. They divided the 13-acre area into 12 strips, then divided each strip into about four daily feeding areas. That means the cows get only a fourth of an acre of pasture daily, and don't waste a bit.

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Beef Profitable in Minnesota -- Farmers in northern Minnesota look upon the John T. O'Neil farm as an outstanding example of good farm management and proof of the economy of beef feeding in that area. O'Neil is a firm believer in grass silage feeding and other modern developments in livestock management. Of his 1,520 acres of land, 700 are in crops. He has a herd of 80 Hereford beef cows plus some yearlings and calves. He is also an ardent conservationist and provides much clover and food for deer and game birds.