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# Our LAND



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Fertilize Rotation -- What farmer would turn down a 144 per cent increase in alfalfa and brome hay, plus a 47 per cent increase in corn, one and two years after applying commercial fertilizer to his field? O. C. Soine, agronomist, Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston, points out that this can be done by fertilizing the rotation so that each individual crop will utilize the residual or carry-over effect of the fertilizer.

This was revealed by data collected this past year from rotation fertilizer trials at the Northwest Station. Most farmers probably apply fertilizer to the main cash crop, hoping to realize the most benefit the first year. But the method cited by Soine is more economical because the farmer fertilizes the entire rotation by applying the fertilizer to the grain crop when the field is seeded down to a legume. By this method, both the grain and legume crops are fertilized, and the carry-over effect will be noticeable in the legume crop the second and even the third year after initial application.

By plowing under this increased stand of legumes, more organic matter will be added to the soil, and this in turn will benefit the next cultivated crop, says Soine.

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Legume Catch Crops -- Legume catch crops for green manure go a long way in maintaining soil tilth and fertility on a cash grain farm, in the opinion of Arnold Wiebusch, assistant Goodhue county agent in soil conservation. They are particularly valuable when used before every corn crop. Medium and mammoth red clover, sweet clover and alfalfa have equal soil building value when grown only one year in a rotation or as green manure crops. But, he points out that where erosion is a serious problem, it is necessary to leave the sod more than one year or include a sod crop in the rotation more often.

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Flowville, 1953 -- Five farms in Wright county will be the site of the WCCO and Minnesota Association of Soil Conservation Districts Field Day and State Plowing Matches Saturday, September 26. Why not put this date aside now to attend "Flowville 1953"? Attendance will be free, and there'll be much to see and learn.

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