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A gully-washer, which fell in the Wright County Soil Conservation District this fall, proved the value of soil conservation farming as a soil saver. Tons of rich topsoil from fertile fields farmed up and down the hill, migrated down to the foot of the slope or into fence rows and roadside ditches. In adjacent fields farmed on the contour and strip-cropped, soil losses were greatly reduced.

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Livestock estimates indicate that there are nearly twice as many beef cows in Minnesota and the corn belt as there were 10 years ago. The price of feeder cattle has increased to the point where there is less speculative risk in maintaining a cow herd, points out R. M. Anderson, assistant professor of animal husbandry at the University of Minnesota. "A beef cow herd fits in with a soil conservation program to utilize roughage," he adds.

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The one-day face lifting which was held two years ago on the Joe Sheppard farm near Douglass is paying big dividends this year. "It really gave this farm a new lease on life," Sheppard said. "My improved pastures are producing several times as much feed as I got from the old bluegrass sod, and crop yields are up generally." The demonstration was staged by the soil conservation district assisted by the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service and other agencies.

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In addition to conserving soil, grassed waterways will conserve life and property, points out Glenn Prickett, University of Minnesota farm safety specialist. Grassed waterways will help eliminate the rough going that may tip a tractor or other farm machine being used in the fields, says Prickett.

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