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CC51 Increase Production with Conservation

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Increase Production with Conservation

The University of Nebraska
College of Agriculture Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture Co-operating
W. H. Brokaw, Director—Lincoln, Nebraska
For Cultivated Land

USE GRASSES, LEGUMES, AND MANURE in rotations as frequently as moisture conditions permit.

PLANT ROW CROPS LESS FREQUENTLY on rolling land and MORE FREQUENTLY on land with the least slope.

SOW SMALL GRAIN MORE FREQUENTLY than you plant row crops on the more rolling land.

PROTECT DRAINAGEWAYS with grass. Raise tillage implements when crossing draws. Grow sudan, cane, or small grain in gullys, and later on establish permanent grass.

DO NOT BURN crop or weed residues. These residues are valuable and protect the soil against wind and water erosion.

PLANT ROW CROPS ON THE CONTOUR as a means of saving water.

PLANT SMALL GRAIN ON THE CONTOUR to reduce runoff and erosion.
PRACTICES ADAPTED TO NATURAL SLOPE

Grass prevents gullying of drainageways in cultivated fields.

CONTOUR with plows, disks, and all other tillage machines, including the duckfoot and other subtillers.

Caution with Contouring: Contour listing successfully controls erosion on slopes up to 5 per cent when the field is laid out in such a manner that all concentration of excessive water will be in drainageways protected with grass. Do not expect too much of contour listing on slopes where strip cropping or terracing is needed.

FIELD TERRACES, DIVERSION TERRACES, OR STRIP CROPPING is essential on rilled fields or land with more than 5% slope.

KEEP SUCH COVER AS STUBBLE on the surface, to increase water absorption. Use duckfoot cultivators to control weeds.

CONTOUR BASIN LISTING or other methods of pit cultivation are effective on bare fields.

CLOSE GRAZING and trampling of stubble-fields and cornstalks destroy cover, reduce soil moisture, and increase erosion.

BADLY ERODED AND STEEP AREAS should be seeded to temporary or permanent pasture and grazed lightly, or planted to “go down” crops.

Will Win the War and Write
Permanent pastures rest while cattle graze sweet clover.

**For Grazing Land**

DEFER SPRING GRAZING and give the grass a start.

USE TEMPORARY PASTURES for months when permanent pastures are dormant or need rest.

PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SUPPLEMENTAL FEED so that some protective growth may be left on grazing land throughout the year.

HEAL GULLIES by fencing out livestock.

ENCOURAGE UNIFORM GRAZING by proper distribution of salt and watering places.

CLIP WEEDS when in the blossom stage.

CONTOUR FURROWING OR GROOVING is effective in reducing runoff on hard land that is not too steep.
Prevent Wind Erosion

GOOD VEGETATIVE COVER is the best means of controlling wind erosion.

TALL, THICK STUBBLE of small grains, if not closely pastured, will prevent soil from blowing and catch snow and rain.

STRIP FIELDS 3 to 20 rods in width at right angles to the prevailing wind, with alternate strips kept in crop while the others are fallowed, are satisfactory for flat or sandy land.

ROWS OF TREES AND SHRUBS at right angles to the prevailing wind will protect a belt 10 to 20 times the height of the trees. Do not plant rows up and down hill.

STRIPS OF CORN OR SORGHUM at frequent intervals on fallow land will serve as temporary shelterbelts. Such strips may be left when the crop is cut.

GO-DOWN CROPS of sweet sorghums, sudan grass, or rye, when planted and permitted to mature and remain on sandy land through the fall and winter, will control blowing and store moisture from snow.

FOR CLEAN FALLOW use machinery that will keep trash and clods on the surface.

BURNING WEEDS OR STUBBLE makes the soil more susceptible to wind and water erosion.