SOIL IMPROVEMENT

We fight to Save Our Soil

American farmers are asked to produce more than they've ever been asked to produce before. This is essential for the war effort. We have to produce more food and fiber and timber than ever before, for the use of the Army and Navy, for the use of the civilian population working forces, for the use of our Allies, and to help restore the world to an even keel after the War.

To do this job effectively, we have to protect our soil, water, timber, and other natural resources against the inevitable losses that would result from an unrestrained production spree. WE HAVE TO GUARD AGAINST DESTRUCTION OF SOIL RESOURCES THAT MIGHT CATCH US SHORT BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR.

THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS IMPERATIVE IS THROUGH CONSERVATION FARMING. THE PRINCIPLES SET DOWN IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH WE CAN DO THE JOB. THESE PRINCIPLES APPLY IN WAR AS WELL AS IN PEACE.

A complete plan for controlling erosion on a farm may include any or all of the following principles of correct land use and employment of special practices, depending on the complexity of the problem.

1. Rough, rocky land incapable of producing pasture worth a good cow's time will be most profitable and useful to the farm if kept in woodlot and protected against fire and grazing.

2. The better quality rough land unsuited for fields ought to be in permanent pasture with fertilization and grazing practices that insure maximum production.

3. Erosion in fields ought to be minimized by use of suitable rotations reinforced by conservation practices such as contour cultivation, strip cropping on terracing.

4. The unavoidable run-off from large areas concentrates in draws and eventually in streams. Safe disposal may be secured by grass waterways and permanent dams. Streambanks can be protected by willow plantings, rip rap or deflecting dams.

5. Thousands of dollars of public money can be saved by proper soil and water conservation to control erosion of our highway system.
Trempealeau County is making progress in establishing erosion control measures. There are approximately 400 farms that have farm plans with the Soil Conservation Service totaling approximately 52000 acres.

We have a start, however, we have yet 3100 farms that are without conservation plans.

Your Agent feels, that because of the rough nature of the land, that conservation of the soil should be the first objective in furthering Trempealeau County's farm program. Trempealeau County has many areas totally beyond crop use as a result of soil erosion. The taxable wealth of these areas is lost and eventually they will revert to county land and become the same problem as are the cut-over lands of northern Wisconsin.

It seems imperative that all who are interested in the future of Trempealeau County recognize the dire need of or the control of soil erosion and do all in their power to avoid further destruction of our land.

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WE FIGHT TO SAVE OUR SOIL NOT ONLY FROM INVADERS BUT FOR THE FUTURE FARMERS OF TREMPEALEAU COUNTY.