

3/26/64

Can Save Soil By Contouring

Farmers who have sloping land that isn't being farmed on the contour "may be losing more soil and water than they realize," according to Verle Arnold, work unit conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service office here.

He estimates that approximately 100,000 acres of Davis county cropland should be farmed on the contour. About 60 per cent of that amount is being contour farmed.

Contouring, said Arnold, will reduce soil losses about one-half compared to farming up and down hill. Contouring can also cut water run-off as much as 50 per cent—meaning an extra 2 or 3 inches of moisture available for crops.

"In a dry year," said Arnold, "this extra moisture could make a considerable corn yield difference, and, as an added bonus, farming around the hill will reduce tractor fuel consumption."

Farmers needing technical assistance in establishing contour guide lines may contact the SCS office at 203½ S. Madison St., Bloomfield.