

Conservation Notes

# "Conservation Cropping Systems" For Soil Erosion

By RUSSELL C. BLEVINS and diseases; and meet the need and desire of farmers for an economic return. Basic to any conservation cropping system is a crop rotation. A crop rotation involves a rotation of row crops and grass. There are many crop rotations; however, a four-year rotation is commonly used in this area. In other words, there would be two years in row crops followed by two years in grass. The benefits to this are many. A grass sod after tobacco or tomatoes can help control nematodes, blight, root rot, and other soil borne organisms. A dense grass sod is the

most practical and economical way to improve the physical condition of the soil. Fescue is especially well suited to improve the soil because of its heavy rooting system. These roots open many small channels which allow air and water to enter

the soil after the grass has been killed or plowed under. Well managed fescue can add 15 to 20 tons of organic matter per acre of soil. This makes

grass sod based rotations an important soil and water conservation practice. It increases yields and increases profits. Other conservation practices such as contour plowing, strip cropping, conservation

tillage cover crops and several other conservation practices can be tied in with crop rotation to develop a good conservation cropping system. The cost of the system is low and the benefits are

numerous. Now is the time to be considering good cropping system for your place. Come by the office or call us. We are located in the Whitehurst-Griffin Building on Main Street in Marshall and our phone number is 649-3313.



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