

Checks on erosion and floods

This unidentified newspaper clipping illustrates and explains four useful techniques for combating drought and soil erosion: planting vegetation on steep slopes, strip cropping, contour plowing, and check dams.

Date: Between 1930 and 1937

Callnumber: 630 Agriculture Clippings v. 2, p. 195

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210661

Item Identifier: 210661

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210661



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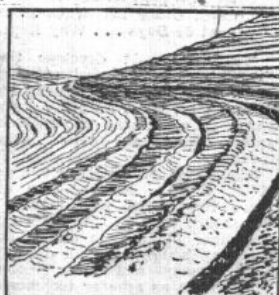
Checks on Erosion and Floods



Vegetation on steep slopes is the best preventive for the undue run-off that causes floods. Where the earth is spongy with grass and tree roots, water from snow or rain readily seeps into the ground.



Strip cropping reduces run-off and erosion on land under cultivation. Small grain, stripped between such open-stand crops as corn or potatoes, prevents water getting a clean sweep down a hillside.



Contour plowing, in which the furrows run around the slope rather than up and down, forms tiers of tiny reservoirs which hold off excess water on the hillside until the ground has time to soak it up.



Check dams, built of posts and brush or wire across gullies already cut, also hold back the run-off. More, they catch floating topsoil and, in time, heal the gashes previously cut by erosion.