

main line and 6,300 feet of 10-inch concrete or steel pipe carrying the water to the field. Revolving sprinkler heads are used. The system will deliver a little more than 2/5 of an inch of water per hour. At this rate, 6½ acres are handled in a 10-hour period and at one setting—with an estimated 4¼ inches of water applied.

The pipe carries 2,400 gallons of water per minute down the 180-foot hillside drop to develop a pressure of 70 pounds. Hansen sets his sprinkler system on a 6½-acre plot in the morning and changes it in the evening, allowing the system to run all night. This means that he actually spends only 2 or 3 hours a day at the job of irrigating and has all day to do his other farm work. An irrigator would have to be paid at



"Yep, \$5. If you'd brought it to the office it would only have been \$2.

least \$1 an hour so he saves \$20 for the day and night operation.

#### System Cost \$10,000

The irrigation setup cost about \$10,000 with \$3,800 in the sprinkler system and \$6,200 in the concrete works and piping from the hillside creek to the field.

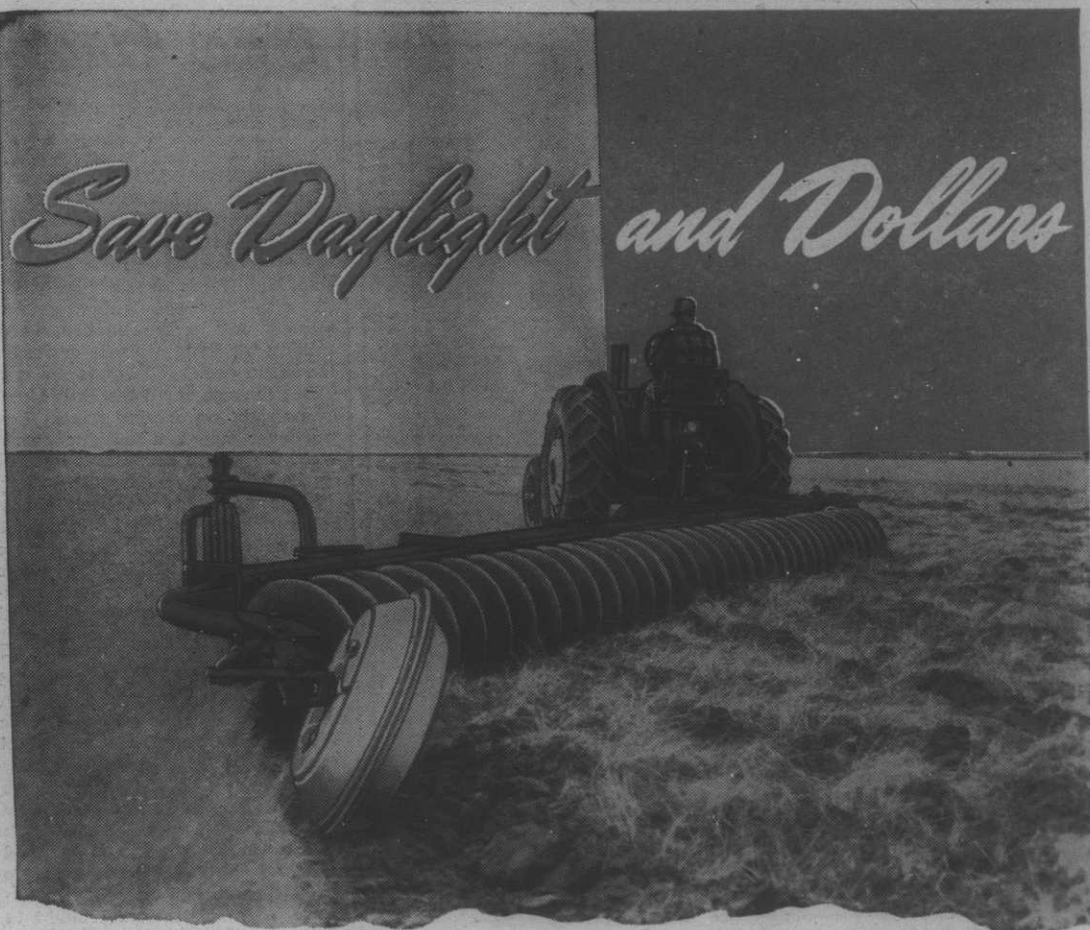
The farm includes 540 acres of which about 220 is tillable and the balance timberland. One hundred acres can be irrigated now by the sprinkler system and another 120 acres can be cleared for eventual irrigation. The tillable acreage was all nonirrigated before this June when the sprinkler system was installed. Thirty acres was in alfalfa and 70 in a sweet clover green manure crop last year.

Half of this green manure crop will be plowed up this year and seeded to permanent pasture. Hansen figured that with such a small tillable acreage, he could not compete with the large scale grain farmers—especially from standpoint of machinery investment necessary. So he plans to go into the beef cattle business. He hopes to buy 25 to 30 head of Angus bred heifers this year and build the herd up to perhaps 200 cows.

He will then plan on selling calves at weaning time. He also plans to have about 150 head of Rambouillet ewes with Suffolk bucks to produce feeder lambs.

The cash crop in the past has been grain but with irrigation, Hansen plans to have permanent pasture supporting a beef cattle and sheep operation.

When the farm is converted completely to livestock production, the 100 acres will be half hay and half permanent pasture. The system requires no pumping and no ditch maintenance—in other words, no upkeep.



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