

# FARMERS' CORPORATION TESTS 'CLOUD SEEDING'

LANCASTER, Jan. 1 -Farmers preparing 47,000 acres of the rich Antelope Valley for early grain planting this season are reaching into the sky for the rains they hope will mean bountiful crops.

The grain farmers and others of the valley have formed a corporation now engaged in the first season of "cloud seeding," an experiment in producing extra rainfall. It is the latest of a series of scientific developments aimed to stretch to maximum production the water supply of the valley.

The grain farmers are concentrated in the west portion of the valley, with more than 100,000 acres of fertile alluvial fill. The system known as "summer fallow" is used exclusively with the accepted soil conservation practices adopted against soil erosion, strip crop and contour farming. This community is

known as the outstanding example of proper soil conservation techniques.

The Antelope Valley Farm Demonstration Station under control of the Agricultural College at Davis has produced a new approach to farming in the irrigated section of the valley with the introduction of field corn as an accepted and successful row crop.

The trial commercial acreage of the farmers in 1950 had an average yield of 82 bushels to the acre, a net profit of \$62 per acre as against less than \$32 per acre from alfalfa hay.

The Antelope Valley demonstration farm has shown the farmers how to convert alfalfa land to row crops of field corn and castor beans among others, all with a water demand of less than 60% of that of alfalfa.

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