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Faute de mieux

Dale Stromberg
None

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faute de mieux

Dale Stromberg

*Our investigation finds it suspicious
that we investigated you.*

Our farm was suffering. The rains poured down in August and floods rushed across the meadows and carried off the topsoil. Nothing would grow.

To firm up the soil, you got the idea to introduce four-leafed owl grass. The grass roots would interlock and hold the soil together. And it worked.

But the four-leafed owl grass grew out of control and began to choke off the crops. So I got the idea to introduce African rock weevils. The rock weevils would chew up the roots of the owl grass and kill it off. And it worked.

But the black bullfrogs that feed on rock weevils began to breed like wildfire. And black bullfrog dung is copper-rich and gets into the water, and then the oxen get diarrhea and won't breed. So you got the idea to introduce diamondback pythons to eat the bullfrogs. And it worked.

But diamondback python mating calls are high-pitched and shrill, and they spook the chickens so that they stop laying eggs. So I got the idea to introduce cotton-foxes to eat the python eggs. And it worked.

But cotton-foxes also eat the waterbugs that usually clear the ponds of algae. The algae flourished and blocked up the sluices and canals to the farms. The topsoil, lacking moisture, dried out and loosened, and the next time the autumn rains came, the topsoil was washed away.

So you suggested, "Four-leafed owl grass?"

And I replied, "What other choice do we have?"