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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Saving Gasoline

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consumer radio briefs

University of Minnesota agricultural engineer John True says conservation of energy should still receive top priority, especially for persons planning a summer trip.

Reduce your speed on the highway. Use the speed that gives you the greatest economy. This varies between car models, but it usually occurs between 50 and 60 miles per hour. Gas consumption generally increases significantly above 50.

Drive smoothly with gentle starts and stops. Sudden bursts of speed, fast getaways and jerky lane changes require the engine to use extra gas. Plan ahead for red lights, stop signs and congested traffic.

Use the proper grade of engine oil recommended by your car manufacturer. Lubricants that are too thick require more power and that means more gasoline. Check tire pressures at least monthly. Under inflated tires put an extra drag on the engine in the form of more rolling resistance, thus requiring it to use more gasoline. Keep your car engine tuned according to the specifications of the manufacturer.

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Rhubarb

(0:35)

If a neighbor offers you some free rhubarb from her garden-- take it. Rhubarb gives you the beginning of many cheap, tasty desserts.

University of Minnesota extension nutritionist Isabel Wolf says rhubarb will give you extra vitamins A and C. But be sure to remove the leaves and discard them. They contain large amounts of poisonous oxalic acid so don't use them.

Stewed rhubarb is a tangy, easy to make dessert. Wash the rhubarb and cut into one-inch pieces. Add a small amount of water and one-half cup of sugar to four cups rhubarb. Cover and simmer about 10 minutes until rhubarb is tender. Add a dash of cinnamon at serving time.