

Our LAND



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Many Minnesota farmers are applying phosphate fertilizer at the time they spread manure, reports Paul Burson, University Farm soil testing lab. head. Manure is well supplied with nitrogen and potash but is low in phosphate. Adjust the amount of phosphate according to the number of loads of manure per acre. If 10 loads of manure are put on per acre, add 25 pounds of phosphate per load. That's the equivalent of 250 pounds of 0-20-0 per acre.

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Leon Dahn, a cooperator with the LeSueur county Soil Conservation District, told SCS farm planner Lynn Skaife recently that he saved 25 per cent of his tractor fuel cost this year by working his hilly land on the contour. "It used to be plenty tough working those fields up and down hill," said Dahn. "Now I stay on the level all the time. My crops this year are better, too."

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Late fall grass and legume seeding can be successful -- if the weather cooperates. It should be done after the ground is too cold for the seed to germinate. There is a danger, however. If a few days of warm weather come along, the seed may sprout. When that happens, the stand is seriously affected. It's usually safer to prepare the seedbed in the fall and get the seed in early in the spring, according to University Farm extension agronomist M. L. Armour.

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Soil conservation districts in Winona and Houston counties have their own method of preventing forest fires. About eight years ago A. E. Pinley, state fire marshall, appointed nearly one hundred soil conservation district cooperators as 5-year members of the Minnesota Farm Forest Fire Fighters Organization.

Now, in case of fire, the farmer warden notifies his neighbors and the fire is put out before it has done much damage.

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