

# Our LAND



Appearing in newspapers of the Minnesota Editorial Association through the cooperation of the U.S. Soil Conservation service and conservation authorities at University Farm.

University Farm News  
University of Minnesota  
University Farm  
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

December 7, 1949

Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural  
Extension Service.

For use during the week  
of December 19, 1949.

Wives make neighborhood farm planning meetings more effective, reports John E. Russell, SCS farm planner in the Anoka County Soil Conservation District. Seems the "feminine touch" adds dignity to the meeting and provokes discussion. And the wives are just as interested in soil conservation as the men.

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Livestock plus feed equals meat plus soil fertility.

By marketing feed stuffs through farm livestock, not only is a better price generally received for the feed and a better product provided, but soil fertility is improved in addition. From 50 to 70 per cent of the fertilizing value of feed is available through manure, according to George Wisdom, U Farm livestock man.

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LEONARD PECHUMAN, WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, USED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY RAISING CORN ON ONE OF HIS FIELDS. LAST YEAR HE DECIDED TO TRY CONTOURING. RESULTS: "THE BIGGEST CROP OF CORN I'VE HAD ON THIS FIELD IN 16 YEARS. WATER DOESN'T RUN OFF. INSTEAD IT SOAKS INTO THE GROUND WHERE THE CROP CAN USE IT."

EXPERIMENTS SHOW CONTOURING WILL INCREASE CORN YIELDS BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT ON MOST FIELDS.

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Q. What happens if I can't follow every step of my farm plan?

A. There's no penalty. One objective of the district is to get all land properly and profitably used while protected from damage. However, weather, available help and other things may interfere with seedings, terrace construction, rotations and other parts of your conservation plan. So put the plan into effect as fast as you can.

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