

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

November 3, 1950



Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use during week of
November 19, 1950

Good farming might be given as the best single answer to the problem of stopping soil blowing during the fall and winter after harvesting and fall plowing have laid the soil bare, according to Marvin E. Smith, extension forester at University Farm. This would include planting field windbreaks. The next few months will be a good time to observe what fields need protection most and from what direction prevailing winds come. Then sound plans can be made for planting field windbreaks next spring. For further information send to the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota, for Extension folder 140, "Windbreaks for Field Protection."

* * * * *

The August 20 frost, which killed a lot of corn, revealed another advantage of contouring. John Schwarteau, East Goodhue Soil Conservation District, found upper line of frost damage followed the contour. "I cut the damaged corn without knocking down any of the undamaged corn," he reported. Apparently, contouring helps in a lot of ways other than conserving soil and moisture.

* * * * *

Roger Harris, extension soil conservation specialist at University Farm, reports that the Arthur Schumacker family of Brown county thought that establishment of a fine, wide-sodded waterway in one gullied field might eliminate an uncrossable gully. It did, but the loss of an acre or two of production was a worry. Today they remark: "You should see all the bales of wonderful hay we got this year from that waterway."

* * * * *

Q. Does farm drainage increase water runoff from a given area thereby contributing to stream floods?

A. No. Complete drainage systems do not affect floods. Drained land absorbs more rainfall and delays its runoff. However, partial or incomplete drainage systems can contribute to local floods. - Soil Conservation Service.

-rr-