

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

February 21 1951

Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use during the week
of March 11 1951

Harvey M. Bjerke, West Concord, assistant University of Minnesota extension farm management specialist, reports that Norman Luehman, Lewiston, a member of the S. E. Minnesota Farm Management Service, can show by his records how liming and fertilizer have helped build his soil and increase his yields. His corn yields for the years 1946-1949 were 45, 50, 65, and 74 bushels per acre. Oats yields for the same years were 30, 47, 42, and 53.

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E. P. Evans, cooperator with South Goodhue Soil Conservation District, plowed 8 acres of permanent pasture and seeded it to rye and brome grass. He had been feeding his dairy cows alfalfa hay, silage and grain in the barn. When they went on the rye and brome pasture, they ate only grain in the barn but their production increased.

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Many Minnesota farmers have been puzzled by the inability of their farms to grow legumes. Paul Burson, University of Minnesota soils professor, reports that among information brought out by analysis of 16,728 soil samples in 14 months by the University soil testing laboratory is the fact that in many cases this has been due to soil acidity or lack of lime.

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Alf Hjerstad, cooperator with South Goodhue Soil Conservation District, started establishing his conservation system in 1948. In 1949, he built a new barn and installed a hay drier costing \$900. High quality alfalfa hay and other roughage, coupled with the use of the drier, says Hjerstad, will pay for both the drier and the cost of the conservation program in one year with increased milk production. "I wouldn't believe it myself if I hadn't kept accurate records," he said.