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"Good dairy cows should be placed on winter rations early. Grazing late in the fall is hard on both cows and pastures. Too-close grazing in the fall means weak and slower-starting pastures in spring," says Ralph Wayne, extension dairyman at University Farm, St. Paul.

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The days of "jouncing" across his field on a combine are done for Kenneth Knutson, cooperator in the Wright County Soil Conservation District. In other years one field in particular gave the driver a rough work-out due to gullies and rilling. But this was before Knutson began strip cropping and farming on the contour. This year -- no gullies, no rills, smooth sailing.

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Charles Beer, Anoka county agricultural agent, brought Billy Nelson of Constance to the Soil Conservation Air Tours at White Bear Lake airport. Billy observed soil conservation practices from the air as a reward for being the top boy in the 4-H soil conservation work in Anoka county.

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Many Minnesota farmers are missing a bet in burning their excess corncobs. Such is the belief of Gregory Wagner, a supervisor of the Cottonwood County Soil Conservation District. "When you burn cobs you are destroying valuable organic matter," Wagner points out. "If cobs are used as filler around the water tanks and feeders, and are used in the bedding, they go back on the fields to help maintain organic matter."

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