

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

February 14 1952



Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

For use during week of
March 16 1952

Field Windbreaks: Farm Asset... Trees planted in belts around field borders will prevent soil from drying out quickly and blowing. These windbreaks protect grain fields and orchards from mechanical injury, and to some extent they conserve moisture by reducing winds and therefore benefit growth of crops, states Marvin Smith, extension forester at University Farm.

"How much of field areas may profitably be devoted to windbreak plantings depends on local conditions. In Minnesota the direct crop benefits will certainly warrant belts of a width at least equal to their ultimate heights," says Smith.

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Hay Silage Popular... Hay silage proved to be the topic of most interest at a meeting of farmers in the Sherburne County Soil Conservation District. Color slides on long silage and chopped hay silage put up in piles, stacks, trenches and upright silos aroused lively interest. Farmers lost hay last summer which could have been made into silage. Ross and Ralph Busse, who operate farms in the county, told of their accidental experience with long hay silage. Despairing of ever getting their first cutting of alfalfa dry enough to put in the barn, they piled it outside while it was still green. It was tramped, but no preservative was used. Ross Busse's cattle were just finishing the stack and Ross was sorry he didn't have more of it.

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Pasture Gains Cheaper... Gains of beef cattle on grass or roughage are made at a lower cost than gains made in drylots, states E. F. Ferrin, animal husbandry chief at the University of Minnesota. The consumption of 40 or 50 bushels of corn per steer makes highly finished beef. However, corn is seldom so cheap that this plan of feeding can be followed unless the price of fat cattle is several dollars per cwt. more than that of the feeder cattle, Ferrin points out.

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