

University Farm News
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New Procedure -- A new soil conservation planning procedure is being tried out by the supervisors of the Waseca Soil Conservation District. Instead of working with small groups, the supervisors have approved all of Otisco township for soil capability mapping by the Soil Conservation Service. Thus each farmer in the township will receive a soil map made for his own farm which will serve as a guide for soil conservation work.

Use of the conservation farming guide will, of course, be entirely up to the farmers, but records show that following the plans on the maps adds about five dollars per acre per year to farm income. This is in addition to the value of building up and maintaining the soil over the long pull. Work with small groups in the district will continue as in the past. A series of special meetings for the Otisco township farmers is planned by the Extension Service and SCS specialists.

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Sudan for Stop-gap Pasture -- Sudan grass can't be beat for emergency pasture in hot, dry weather, because it is one of the most drouth-resistant of the sorghums, points out E. F. Ferrin, animal husbandry chief at the University of Minnesota.

Twenty-five pounds of seed per acre at a cost of \$12.50 per hundredweight makes this a low-cost crop in view of the heavy yield. It's palatable as pasture or hay, providing it's not allowed to grow for a long enough time to become coarse-stemmed. Some years sudan grass pasture in the first stages of growth contains enough prussic acid to be dangerous feed for cattle or sheep, but not for hogs. Do not start pasturing the first time until the plants are 10-12 inches tall. The growth of green sudan grass following frost also may be poisonous, but silage and hay are not dangerous.

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Hay Days -- Dates to reserve: June 5 at Rosemount, June 12 at Morris, and June 17 at Grand Rapids. They will be "Hay Days" at U. of M. branch agricultural experiment stations at those locations. The latest in hay-making machinery will be shown in operation.

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