

University Farm News
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Want 100-Bushel Corn? -- How do you produce a 100-bushel per acre corn crop? With the threatened shortage of feed, that's an important question just now, and a good man to answer it is Herbert A. Hansen of the Freeborn Soil Conservation District. Hansen was the state champion corn grower last year with 129 bushels per acre. He was among the first farmers in the district to adopt a complete soil conservation plan, including rotations worked out with the help of Elmer Miller, SCS farm planner of Albert Lea. Hansen has found that land plowed out of good legume and grass sod is mellow, well drained and able to supply the moisture needed for those extra bushels of corn.

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See Farm 'Face to Face' -- "See your farm face to face" will be the slogan of the Minnesota farmers who will take to the air this summer to see soil erosion damage and check effectiveness of soil conservation practices. Two more soil conservation air tours, planned at Alexandria June 28 and Fergus Falls July 18, bring the total to seven, reports M. A. Thorfinnson, soil conservation specialist at University Farm. The other five are being put on by the same soil conservation districts as staged air tours last year, with a few new districts participating. Already scheduled are tours at the Flying Cloud airport near Shakopee for Scott, Carver and Hennepin counties, July 8 or 15; and at Dodge Center September 5-6 in connection with the State and National Plowing Contests and Field Days.

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Cultivate Shelterbelt -- All too often, a lot of good effort in planning and planting a shelterbelt is lost for lack of proper cultivation. Marvin Smith, University of Minnesota extension forester, says that a highly satisfactory job of cultivating trees can be done with a spring-tooth field cultivator. If this implement isn't available, a corn cultivator will do the job. A single disc is objectionable because it will hill the earth around the trees. Discs of any type dig too deeply and may cut into tree roots. Shallow cultivation is sufficient if the ground is correctly prepared in advance. The final cultivation for the season should be done about mid-August.

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