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"Cyclone Insurance" ... If O. C. Hovde, Marshall farmer, needed any selling on the value of a farmstead shelterbelt, a cyclone this summer did the job. While the storm damaged his unprotected barn severely, the house, protected by trees, escaped harm. Hovde is making plans to add to the old shelterbelt and extend it to cover the entire farmstead, not only to provide "cyclone insurance" but to help conserve soil and make the home and farmstead more comfortable for both human beings and livestock, reports Parker Anderson, extension forester.

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Soil Surveys by Air? ... In an experiment that may save time and money and laborious "foot work," the Soil Conservation Service is making soil surveys by air in Rock County, Steele County and in the Red River Valley. The old method was to walk over the farm land recording the slope and soil type and other data needed to determine land capabilities for farm planning.

Not all of the data needed can be determined by air but it is believed that a very limited amount of foot work will be required to supplement the air surveys. If the new method proves to be successful, soil survey work may be done about three times as fast as at present. The State Department of Aeronautics is co-operating in making the air survey tests.

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Treat Alfalfa Right ... Risk of winter-killing of alfalfa is reduced if the plants go into the winter with strong, vigorous roots, reminds S. B. Cleland, extension farm management specialist. So don't weaken the roots by late cutting of a third crop or by too much fall pasturing. If you can cut the third crop before September 1, there will usually be enough growing weather before winter to get the roots back into shape. Your job is not only to get a fourth crop started but, what is more important, to give this fourth crop time to pour nourishment from the top back into the roots.

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Air Tour ... Houston County farmers will be able to see soil conservation problems and practices from the air at a Soil Conservation Air Tour program to be held August 28, 29, 30 in connection with the Houston County fair. The landing field will be located on the Louis Fruechte farm, 5 miles southwest of Caledonia on Highway 44.