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Lime Is A Key -- Most farmers are well aware of the benefits of liming acid soils in helping get good legume stands and better legume crops. And lime will often increase yields of other crops such as corn on acid soils because it helps unlock the phosphate supply and releases enough for additional crop yields, says Harold E. Jones, extension soils specialist at the University of Minnesota.

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Land Judged -- In the first contest of its kind in the Luverne area, the veterans' agricultural class and local farmers took part in a land use judging contest recently. The event was held on the Jess Searles farm near Beaver Creek. Contestants scored the soil at four locations on the farm for color, texture, depth, sub-soil permeability, slope and degree of erosion. Paul Hoyme of the Hills Veterans Ag Class took first place with a score of 336 points out of a possible 400.

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It's Height That Counts -- Remember when planting a new shelterbelt or adding to an old one that the taller the trees, the greater the width of the shelterbelt area, says Marvin Smith, University of Minnesota extension forester. Windbreaks are effective in reducing the wind velocity over a distance 20 times the height of the tree belt. In other words, a belt 40 feet high is effective to a point 800 feet away, whereas a 25-ft. belt loses its effectiveness 500 feet away. Shrubs and low-growing trees are certainly necessary for density close to the ground but tall trees such as cottonwood, ash, elm and hackberry merit a place in any shelterbelt for either home or field protection, says Smith.

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Champ Conservationist -- The cow is the great conservationist, remind University of Minnesota extension dairy specialists. "It is she that makes our acreage of hay and pasture both possible and necessary."