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Don't Be Fooled -- Don't Be Fooled by the big hay crops of recent years. Plan to seed enough so that an average or small crop will leave you enough hay, warns S.B. Cleland, extension farm management specialist at the U. of M. Plan on two acres of hay for every cow--one acre for the cow and another for her young stock. If that turns out to be more than you need, pasture off the rest. It pays to have plenty, says Cleland.

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Collects Profiles -- Russell Edwards, soil scientist for the SCS at St. Peter, has collected more than 30 soil profiles of the major soils in the St. Peter area. The profiles are strips of soil taken vertically from ditch sides, road cuts or drainage ditches without disturbing or mixing the layers of topsoil, subsoil and parent material. They are used by farm planners to show farmers the differences in the various soils on the same farm and how to use and treat them to the best advantage. Edwards preserves the soil profiles with clear plastic to keep them from drying out and shattering. "A farmer should know as much as possible about his soil in order to use it wisely," says Edwards.

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Winter Harvest -- Many farmers owning timber tracts are preparing for summer building by well thought-out winter timber harvests, points out Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota. Prior to cutting, select trees to be cut as to sizes and species that will be most desirable to meet building needs. Knowing in advance the amount of lumber which can be produced by various-sized trees is not difficult. Volume estimate cards and cards explaining log scaling are available on folders and sheets from your county agent. The woodlot is a part of the farm, and by proper cutting and management can be a profitable contribution to farm returns and home needs, says Anderson.

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Don't Get Stung -- Some alfalfa seed is being advertised in Minnesota that's not a good buy, warns L.J. Elling, agronomist at the University of Minnesota. Nomad, Talent, Rhizoma and Williamsburg are varieties that are being offered for sale in our state which are not superior to the recommended varieties. And prices being asked for seed of these varieties are unreasonably high, says Elling.

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