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Stewards of the Soil — "I consider that we farmers are stewards of the soil for our children and the people of the United States. Our job is to see that they eat and continue to eat. A part of our reward is satisfaction in doing a first rate, worth while job." That's Merton Houg of Glenville, Freeborn County, speaking. If doing a good conservation job brings satisfaction, Merton Houg should be just about the most satisfied man in the country. Besides having a good conservation plan on his own 300-acre farm, he was chosen as having made the most outstanding achievement in soil and water conservation in Freeborn County.

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Testimonial — Here's a strong testimonial to the value of field shelterbelts for the prairie, reported by Marvin Smith, University of Minnesota extension forester. A number of farm families who had moved to Red Lake County from eastern North Dakota, where tree planting for field protection are rather commonplace, immediately missed the protecting borders of trees around their fields. So they lost no time in contacting the local SCS farm planner to inquire how they might get field shelterbelts on their farms.

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Variety Counts — The greater the variety of trees, shrubs and vines, the greater the value of the woodlot as a home for wild life. That's a tip passed along from the U.S. Forest Service by Parker Anderson, extension forester at the University of Minnesota.

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Legumes Rate High — With more and more dairymen putting the first crop of hay in the silo, there's a greater use for roughage and need for expanded acreages, says Ralph Wayne, University of Minnesota extension dairyman. Legumes, in addition to being soil-conserving crops, still rate highest as roughage for dairy cattle. They provide an abundance of low-cost protein as well as total nutrients, says Wayne.

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