

University Farm News
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Conservation After Hours -- Sportsmen of Zumbrota have been spending time after office and store hours constructing fences around wildlife areas on farms in the area. It's a step toward better hunting and better relationships between farmers and hunters. The fences will keep cattle out of the areas and give grass and trees a chance to grow. "When the grass grows tall," said Bob Anderson, SCS farm planner for the South Goodhue Soil Conservation district, "game birds don't have to nest in alfalfa fields, and more of them will survive, since very few farmers have bars on their mowers to flush the birds ahead of the cycle."

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Windbreaks Farm Asset -- Increasing availability of tree-planting machines in Minnesota counties will inevitably be accompanied by an increase in systematic planting of trees to protect fields and crops, if the experience of such counties as Wilkin and Norman mean anything. Marvin Smith, U. of M. Extension forester, reports that in these counties, where tree planting machines were made available several years ago, many miles of field windbreaks checker the landscape. The earliest plantings are well established and, according to their owners, filling a long-felt need for protection of soil and crops against wind erosion, blow-down, firing by hot winds and excessive loss of soil moisture.

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40,000 Trees Planted --- An army of 163 volunteer workers, planting trees at the rate of more than a hundred a minute, set out 15,000 trees during the sixth annual Hay Creek Valley Arbor Day recently near Red Wing. The workers were mostly Red Wing high school students assisted by 33 visiting students from the North St. Paul world geography class. Also engaged in the project were 20 FFA students. Owners of the farms rewarded the students with lunch and refreshments. Another tree planting project, plus those planted by farmers, brings the total to 40,000 trees planted in the Hay Creek Valley this spring.

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