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Our LAND



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Sawdust Valuable as Soil Builder -- Most wood--and sawdusts, of course--are slightly acid. These acids disappear when wood and sawdust rots. You can thus add needed acid to your soil by adding sawdust, says Marvin E. Smith, extension forester at the University of Minnesota. If used on land planted to crops sensitive to acid conditions, it may be advisable to use lime along with sawdust--particularly if the soil is slightly acid already. Your county agent can help find a good farm use for sawdust.

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28,000 Baby Trees Hand-Planted in Four Hours -- You've heard of the Sand Dunes State Forest--17 square miles of lightly grassed sand dunes north of Elk River. Well E. E. Bjugge, Sherburne county agent, Mrs. Ella Kringlund, 4-H club agent, and about 600 area 4-H'ers and school children had their annual tree-planting field day last month. They'd planned to hand-plant about 15,000 young trees, but they went over the top with 28,000. Luckily, state forest officials had large stocks of tiny young trees on hand for the eager youngsters. Visit this area sometime. It's a striking example of what man can do with trees, patience and non-agricultural land.

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Grass--Our Most Wonderful Feed -- A prominent Nebraska rancher, Bruce Snyder, gives a poetic picture of the merits of grass. Snyder recently said grass is nature's most wonderful feed--"It's vitaminized, proteinized, laborized and best of all, it saves my poor old back." He explained this last statement by pointing out that preparing dry hay involves four operations--cutting, stacking, hauling and feeding.

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Feed Your Soil-Builders -- Clovers are soil builders and give high quality, low-cost feed only when they are "fed" properly. Hunger signs are similar for red, Ladino and alsike clover, says Paul M. Burson, University of Minnesota soils authority. If you can tell these signs on one, you usually can spot them on the others. Among symptoms are neat white dots or streaks, yellowish and reddish leaves and ragged leaf edges.