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Visit County Agent's Fertilizer Plots -- Now, on one of your trips to neighbors or into town, is a good time to drop in and visit one of the fertilizer plots your county agent has set up. These plots will give you some tips for your 1955 fertilizer program, says Harold E. Jones, University soils specialist. Call or see the county agent. He'll be happy to tell you where his plots are and talk to you about his experiences with them.

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Wind Erosion Caused Heavy Damage -- You may know from your own sad experience that wind erosion caused heavy damage in many areas this spring. Many corn and soybean fields were damaged. Out in Benton County, however, fields strip-cropped and protected by tree shelterbelts suffered little damage, according to Russell Jongewaard of the SCS. Wind erosion does its damage in several ways, he explains. Blowing and drifting soil damages the crop by cutting or burying. The soil loses quality as fine particles are carried away, leaving only coarser material. Final result: sand dunes, "blowouts," and a coarse, sandy-gravelly topsoil. "It's a losing game without protection," he adds.

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"Yugs Open at Both Ends"-- This is an old-timer story. Back in 1910, Charlie Anderson stopped at the J. J. Zweber farm in Scott County. Charlie was a lot like many of the drifters of his day--a good worker when sober and, like many in the drainage profession, he believed it important to stay "at least as wet on the inside as on the outside." One day, Charlie went out to drain a few of the small potholes and marshes. It was the custom to dig shallow drainage ditches. But Charlie's experience in Illinois told him open ditches were a nuisance. He suggested tile. When Zweber asked what tile were, Charlie said, "Tile are yust like yugs open at both ends. You yust lay dem flat and bury dem." Although Zweber had to order the tile from Iowa, he took Charlie's advice. It's still doing a good "yob". Charlie would marvel at the big gasoline-powered diggers that have put in over a million feet of tile in Scott County the last few years. Forty years ago, he got down in the tile trench and picked out every little stone to help tile seat properly. He'd have great fun on the seat of a chugging tile-digger--he might even forget his need to "stay wet inside".

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