

University Farm News  
University of Minnesota  
Institute of Agriculture  
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

October 29 1954



Prepared and distributed  
by the Minnesota Agricultural  
Extension Service.

For use during week of  
November 8 1954

Abandons Guesswork for Contouring -- It used to be "by guess and by gosh" for Burton Larson of Bigelow on his rolling land. He used to plant rows across the slope, but this year the SCS's Harold Dineen helped him and several neighbors lay contour strips. Burton was astounded when he saw how much water those contour rows held during a  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rain this summer. He plans to strip crop this land next year to cut soil water losses even more. He is a supervisor for the Nobles County Soil Conservation District.

\* \* \* \* \*

Time to Order Trees Now -- "Do it now," says Extension Forester Marvin Smith at the University. He means: order shelterbelt trees while nursery stocks are still full and you can get what you want. And don't risk losing trees by putting in species that aren't adapted to Minnesota. Your County Agent has free booklets on what to plant and how to plant it for farm shelterbelts or wildlife area improvement.

\* \* \* \* \*

Plowville '54 Gave Good Lessons -- Plowville '54 is over but the 6,000 folks who rode the tractor-drawn flatbeds to the soil conservation demonstrations will remember the proof-positive. One important lesson: water stored in the soil doesn't cause erosion -- it can't get up speed to tear away topsoil. Rotations, strip-cropping, contour pasture furrows, waterways, and pasture improvement also played a big role. What folks saw not only taught them better land use, but will benefit farmers on whose land the practices were shown.

\* \* \* \* \*

Birdsfoot Trefoil Pays as Cash Crop -- Russell Younggren, chairman of supervisors of the Kittson County Soil Conservation District, grows birdsfoot trefoil as a cash crop. He plants Empire on a loamy gravel soil that normally returns very little for any other crop. Younggren has grown birdsfoot for ten years. He now has 100 acres producing seed, probably the most northern-grown seed in the country -- it's raised right next to the international boundary between Canada and the U. S. This year, he harvested about 100 pounds of clean seed per acre.