

Our LAND



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Tree Planting Big Project at Mora -- The Mora High School FFA Chapter goes strong for tree planting for farm windbreaks, wildlife cover and reforestation. Under Vo-Ag Instructor Lawrence Nelson, about 20 FFA boys have planted 300 trees a year since 1951. Many plant farm windbreaks as a Vo-Ag project and others plant odd areas on the farm for wildlife cover and reforestation. The Mora chapter has bought about 10,000 trees from the State with funds earned in FFA projects. The SCS and the Kanabec Soil Conservation District provided wildlife packets, each containing 250 shrubs and trees. This year, the chapter will plant 6,000 trees along state highways near Mora -- plus plantings on their home farms. A Christmas tree project is planned this year as a fund-provider for future chapter forestry activities.

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Parallel Ditching Does the Job -- Glen Sutton, a farmer near Saum, finds a parallel ditch system takes off surface water "just dandy" for him. He farms 80 acres in a wet sand area. Before his drainage system, he was at the mercy of weather. With help of the Beltrami County Soil Conservation District, Sutton built an outlet ditch in 1952 through a low area. He plowed out deep dead furrows, parallel and spaced at 300 foot intervals, leading into the ditch. In 1953 the District 'dozer deepened two of the dead furrows and shaped them out to four-to-one side slopes for easier working. He plans the same for two more dead furrows. Last spring, the two parallel ditches and the outlet were fertilized and seeded to a grass-legume mixture. Result: not just ditches, but ditches plus permanent hay strips.

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Land Judging Contests Popular -- Already 36 counties plan land judging contests in 1955. State finals will be at Plowville '55 near Rothsay, September 16-17. Roger Harris, Extension soil conservationist at the University of Minnesota, says: "Land judging has proven popular with all -- youth, farmers and the general public. It is an enjoyable method for becoming familiar with the soil and how to evaluate its true worth and best cropping use."