

Our LAND



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Here's A Good Thought -- How many rural folks have gone through their lives without planting a single tree? Not many, that's sure. And what greater memorial can a man leave than a beautiful cover of elms around his farmstead or a column of evergreens to guard a field from northwest winds? Perhaps those are the thoughts of Oscar Torkelson, a St. James farmer. As a young man, he set out baby seedlings-- just "so high" -- and carefully cultivated their ground. He nursed them through dry years until they grew vigorous and strong. Today he looked up at a stately bank of Norway spruce.

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Great Pond Building Interest Out West -- There's been great interest in farm ponds out in the Lincoln County Soil Conservation District. The Plowville '54 event held near Lake Benton seems to have set it off, according to Howard Stevermer of the SCS. Lincoln County farmers are getting an added boost in that the ACP will help financially in pond-building. If you want to plan such a pond, get in touch with the conservationist in the nearest SCS office. His services are free. He can help you determine a good location for the pond and help design and build it.

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Remember Plowville '55 -- The Trosvik Farms four miles north of Rothsay in West Otter Tail County, up in northwestern Minnesota, will be staging area for one of the summer's big events -- Plowville '55. The dates -- Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16-17.

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Seed Planting Startler -- What kind of seed are farmers planting? A recent survey by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus, found that seven out of 10 farmers are using home-produced seed and doing little in the way of cleaning to take out weeds and other crop seeds. The MCIA's drill box survey collected 45 samples of farmers' own seed and found 32 samples containing 53 wild oats seeds per pound; 28 samples had 28 wild mustard seeds per pound; 23 samples had 65 wild vetch seeds per pound and 14 samples had 14 quack grass seeds per pound. Thirty-seven of the samples contained other crops -- averaging 125 "other crop" seeds per pound. Only one of the 45 samples had a purity and freedom from weed and other crop seeds -- and a germination ability -- equal to that required of certified seed. Low quality seed is costly seed. When all factors are considered, certified seed is by far the most inexpensive.

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