

Our LAND



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Trees and More Trees -- Plowville '55 is going to be a many-treed site this year. Trosvik Brothers, five young bachelors who operate the farm near Rothsay on which Plowville '55 will be staged, planted over 6,000 seedlings this spring--some as shelterbelt to protect their farmstead and big turkey operation. They have a total of three shelterbelts, containing cedar, spruce, elm, hockberry and other kinds. One thing the brothers are interested in is the wonderful protection the tree belts will offer upland game. Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, are the two big days of Plowville '55.

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Here's How Erosion Happens -- A graphic description of how erosion takes place comes from Howard Stevermer, an SCS man in Lincoln County, out in western Minnesota. He says, "early this spring I noted road ditches filled level-full with soil blown off bordering fields. I saw one ditch two feet deep and six feet wide filled with topsoil for nearly 40 rods of its length. That's 250 tons and, of course, much more was carried off by the wind--it all didn't end up in that ditch. Now, two months later, we see severe cases of water erosion. One field in northern Lincoln County has small eight-inch wide, inch-deep rills. Though small, these little rills are damagers. One 80 rods long would mean that three tons of topsoil had been washed off--and that's just between two rows."

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Wind-Strip Cropping Found Beneficial -- A system of wind-strip cropping and field shelterbelts paid back its cost in dollars--and in a soil-conservation way--for Kenneth Hoppe of Wilkin County. While many farmers lost tons of valuable topsoil and had to reseed fields that blew out, Hoppe had no wind erosion damage and didn't need to reseed any part of his plantings. He finds that, in addition to his wind strips and shelterbelts, a soil building rotation of alfalfa-brome and the practice of stubble mulching are essential in his total program.

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Hunters Enlisted in Keeping Minnesota Green -- The Beltrami County "Keep Minnesota Green" committee held a finance drive to get funds for a tree planter--the drive went over the top in just two days. The county's boy scouts and the committee placed 5,000 packets of Norway pine seeds in the hands of county hunters. That should have some dramatic effects a few years from now.